

Christ Church and People

Parish Magazine of
Christ Church Stone

40p



August 2012

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	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	Pete 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
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Christ Church Academy, Old Road

Head: C. Waghorn B.Ed(Hons),DPSE,ACP,FRSA	354047
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IN THIS ISSUE

Christ Church



and People

Diary for August	2, 3
By the river	4, 5
Holiday at Home	5
The wait is over...or is it?	6
Wet Wednesdays	7, 8
Ride and Stride (to several churches)	8
Lees' Link Letter	9, 10
PCC News	11
Met the Missionaries?	11
Beesigomwe News	12, 13
Good News	13
Trains in the Garden	15
Stamp-collecting for the Leprosy Mission	15
Body Shop Afternoon	15
Roads for Prayer	15
From the Registers, Rotas,	16
Groups and Activities	17

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

Cover Picture:-

Granville Terrace

The magazine costs 40p per issue or £4 for a full year.

Subscriptions

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

August 2012

Wed	1		
Thu	2		
Fri	3		
Sat	4	8:30am	Prayer meeting followed by breakfast at 9:00
Sun	5	9:15am 5:00pm	Communion Acts 15:1-21 "It's by grace not race" Evening Prayer at Moddershall 2 Samuel 7:1-17 "The house that will last"
Mon	6	3:00pm	Holidays at Home for older people
Tue	7	10:00am 3:00pm	Coffee before midweek service: service at 10:30 Holidays at Home for older people
Wed	8	3:00pm	Holidays at Home for older people
Thu	9		
Fri	10		
Sat	11		
Sun	12	9:15am 5:00pm	Morning Prayer Acts 16:11-40 "Europe beckons" Communion at Moddershall 2 Samuel 9 "Gracious generosity"
Mon	13		
Tue	14	10:00am	Coffee before midweek service: service at 10:30

Wed	15		
Thu	16		
Fri	17		
Sat	18		
Sun	19	9:15am 2:30pm 5:00pm	Holy Communion Acts 17:16-34 “The gospel and pluralism” Autumn House service Evening Prayer at Moddershall 2 Samuel 11:1-27 “Spiralling sin”
Mon	20		
Tue	21	10:00am	Coffee before midweek service: service at 10:30
Wed	22		
Thu	23		
Fri	24		
Sat	25		
Sun	26	9:15am 5:00pm	Morning Prayer Acts 18:1-22 “Corinth hears the gospel” Communion at Moddershall 2 Samuel 12:1-25 “Sensitivity to God’s word”
Mon	27		
Tue	28	10:00am	Coffee before midweek service: service at 10:30
Wed	29		
Thu	30		
Fri	31		

Bollywood Night

Indian Meal and entertainment

Saturday 1st September

St Dominic’s Social Club

£10 per person

In aid of the Guides trip to Mombasa

Contact Shelagh or Emma 01785 760602

By the river

The internet news has some wonderful aerial photographs of the 2012 Olympic Park. It is truly impressive! What a thrill to see magnificent venues all done and dusted for the biggest sporting event of all. Preparations for the opening ceremony are underway. One picture shows the main stadium with a huge river running through it: the River Thames. This is not because it has flooded and overflowed into the stadium (“Don’t even go there” I hear you say!), but is something distinctive of London and crucial to its life.

Rivers play an important part in the development of community life. Populations tend to grow up around rivers as important centres of activity from business to leisure. But of course rivers are vitally important for providing water.

In the Bible the people of Israel would be keenly aware of the precious nature of water. Theirs was not an environment of plentiful water, so it was something that had to be carried by the bucket load or transported by aqueducts. The Bible often calls on the imagery of water to convey important truths. Let me quote from the Old Testament where it encourages us to stay close to the water source:

¹ Blessed is the one

 who does not walk in step with the wicked
or stand in the way that sinners take
 or sit in the company of mockers,

² but whose delight is in the law of the LORD,
 and who meditates on his law day and night.

³ That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
 which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither –
 whatever they do prospers [*Psalm 1*].

This Psalm speaks of a life that is connected to the Lord God. It encourages a relationship of devotion to the Lord who gives us wisdom and reveals His purposes. It is a pathway that avoids evil but follows the ways of the Lord despite the pressure to take another route.

(continued)



By the river *(cont)*

It promises blessings – just like plants which are in soil close to a water source so as to produce abundant fruit and leaves that look healthy. This is a picture of a life that produces spiritual fruit, rather than being a guarantee of physical health and wealth. Spiritual fruit is seen when we grow in our likeness to Jesus.

The River Thames is a great symbol to have in the middle of the Olympic Stadium as it is a reminder to what matters most. The water source is Jesus Christ. Staying close to Jesus is like being close to the river as it brings great blessings.

In Christ

Paul Kingman



Holiday At Home

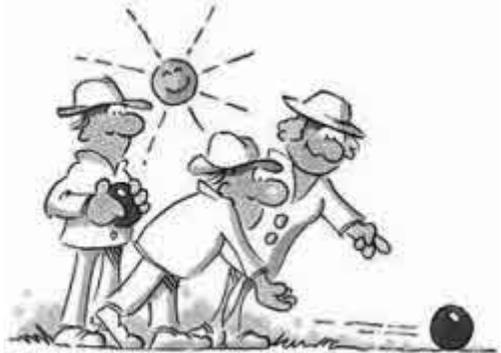
for Older People

‘Holiday at home’ is an opportunity to take a break from the usual routine. Enjoy the company of others, have fun and discover new things. Creative activities, music, table quiz, indoor games, afternoon tea & a Bible reflection.



Mon 6th to Wed 8th August
3-5 p.m. at Christ Church Centre,
Stone ST15 8ZB

**Please ring 811990 to
book.**



The wait is over...or is it?

“I’m getting closer!” was Andy Murray’s verdict as he fought to hold back the tears after his defeat to Roger Federer in the Wimbledon final last month. His goal of Grand Slam glory still lies ahead but within 24 hrs of that defeat he was doing a pretty good job of focusing on the next opportunity for glory – an Olympic gold.

The 17 days of the Olympics will see over 10,000 athletes from some 204 countries competing for just 302 gold medals. Heartache will be inevitable! Careers will be broken or made. Lives will be changed. But by the 13th August it will be over and each athlete regardless of how they’ve done will be forced to discover a new focus, a new aim, a new goal.

In Philippians 3 the apostle Paul gives us a glimpse of the goal in his life. In verse 10 we read **I want to know Christ** and in verses 12-14 he describes his pursuit of that goal. *Pressing on, straining ahead* - all in order to reach his goal. His language is evocative of what will fill our TV screens between 27 July and 12 August – athletes striving onward, straining every sinew to be the quickest, furthest, highest or strongest. But Paul’s target is not a gold medal (which incidentally is only 1.34% gold!) that will eventually sit idle in a glass cabinet but rather a deeper, dynamic relationship with Jesus Christ – the one who loved him enough to die for him, the Creator and Sustainer of the universe, the one who conquered the grave giving us a glimpse of the glory to come and the one who provides the soul quenching satisfaction that not even a 1000 gold medals or Grand Slams could provide.

In Jesus, Paul found both peace and purpose and having had a taste of him, Paul longed for more. In Philippians 1, he says **for what is life? To me it is Christ**. Everything about Paul was dedicated to having a greater experience of Jesus in his life – having more peace and purpose, fulfilment and satisfaction – in short living as he was made to live! But amazingly he goes beyond that to say **Death then will bring more!**

For most people today, whether Olympian or spectator, death is viewed as the shatterer of dreams and goals and not the realisation of them. But Paul knew with absolute assurance and certainty that death would catapult him into the very presence of Jesus. His goal would be realised. The striving would cease. His soul would be finally and completely satisfied. And the basis of his convictions was the historical evidence of the resurrection and the experiential evidence of the resurrection power already at work in him.

Being a Christian is all about knowing Jesus, wanting to know him more and daily getting closer to the realisation of that goal. It’s life changing, it’s hard work but it’s what we were each made for and the rewards are far more satisfying than a 1.34% gold medal!

Andy

Wet Wednesdays

Sir Alex Ferguson claims that: ‘Success is 5% inspiration and 95% perspiration’. I think he has a point. As I write, Spain have just won the Euro Football Championships, defeating the Italians with breath-taking skill and style. Andy Murray is displaying his growing stamina and mental strength at Wimbledon and England are beating the Aussies in the cricket with Bell, Morgan and Finn giving shining performances. The Olympics are still to come: Jessica Ennis – will she or won’t she? Team GB Rowing and Cycling – Can they do it again?

In all these events, performance on the day in the arena is important. But what happens on a wet Wednesday in February, away from the public eye, is crucial. It is the persistent training that leads to the assured performance. It is the hidden hours steadily building up athletic strength and agility in the gym, on track or river out of season that matter; it is mastering the small defects and practising the basics that produce confidence that counts on the day. The members of the Spanish football team did not learn to pass the ball with such genius precision overnight – learning to control the ball, keep possession of it and pass it accurately has been part of their daily routine since they were boys.

5% inspiration, 95% perspiration – when it comes to success, St Paul agrees with Sir Alex. The virtues that Paul asks the Christian community in Rome to exercise are not the grand dramatic noticeable ones like heroism or courage in battle but the small, long-haul ones, for which we often get no praise and which have to be practised every minute of the day – love, patience, respect, perseverance (Romans 12: 9-13). But Paul knows that these are in fact often the hardest and most trying skills to acquire. Surprisingly, you get the impression reading through his letters, that they didn’t come naturally to him either. It’s surely no accident that he uses emphatic and exaggerated language about these virtues: we are to love with a *passion* and *hate* the opposite of love with equal passion. We are to be *competitively* respectful; *zealous* in service; *joyful* in hope and almost *embarrassingly* hospitable! Paul wants the Christian community really to understand that these qualities do not come by accident. They have to be worked at with all the dedication and energy that you would once have given to getting on in the world; or that an athlete gives in training during the cold, wet Wednesdays of February to gain a gold medal in August.

(continued on next page)

Wet Wednesdays *(cont)*

Doing the Christian basics - loving God and loving neighbour, living lives with integrity and honesty for the sake of others - is just what this world needs at the moment. In Jesus Christ, the pioneer of our faith, we see inspiration and perspiration supremely combined in his life, teaching, death and resurrection. God is passionate about winning the world with his love and he calls us to join with him in this goal. Like Sir Alex, he is a great coach who knows that the training on wet Wednesdays matters.

+Mark Rylands, Bishop of Shrewsbury

Staffordshire Historic Churches Trust

Ride and Stride

Saturday 8th September 2012

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

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

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

Saturday 8th September is not so far away - so make a note of the date now and put it on your calendar!

Fair Trade Goods Stall

Fair Trade Goods will be on sale on August 26th in the Church Centre, after the morning service

Lees' Link Letter

(The Lee family is linked to our church through CMS. They started Jigsaw Ministries in Manila and now are back in England but Tim is still supporting the work in Manila)

Dear friends.

Greetings on this week of Jubilee festivities! We have been enjoying - as much of the country has -time with family, friends and neighbours, as well as of course huddling under umbrellas!! We are now on a half term holiday and so at last have some time to write to you all and let you know what's been happening in the Lee family. So far this year God has really blessed us as a family and the ministry we are involved in. Since we last wrote Tim has been to the Philippines on three occasions and from all the visits, he has been overjoyed by what God is doing there through Jigsaw - the organisation we as a family started nine years ago. Jigsaw Philippines is growing from strength to strength, not only in the programmes it delivers but more importantly through the transformation of its local staff. The longer it exists the more we realise just how pioneering it is, not just through the programmes it runs but also in the ways that they run and the philosophies and structures that underpin them. Jigsaw is part of a children's network in the Philippines and a number of key people from other organisations have visited to see how it runs and what it does. Without exception all the visitors have commented on and been impressed by the way that Jigsaw is run and that it 'works' despite being different from most development projects which usually employ middle class qualified people with qualifications to work among the poor. Jigsaw empowers, trains and equips people from local communities to work within these communities and this, along with personal transformation, has been the key to Jigsaw's success and acceptance within the communities it works.

Due to the pioneering nature of Jigsaw and the fact that there is no blueprint to follow, so much of Tim's work has been to develop, encourage and train local staff to ensure the long term sustainability of Jigsaw. The work is difficult and often stressful but we know that we are right where God wants us and that He has sustained us both mentally and spiritually so far. For more specific details of the work that Jigsaw does, and to read its latest news, then please send an email to jigsawkidsuk@yahoo.co.uk and we will be happy to add you to our mailing list to receive regular updates and prayer requests.

(continued on next page)

Lees Link Letter *(cont)*

Besides the work in the Philippines, Tim is also responsible for much of the UK charity that was set up a number of years ago to support Jigsaw Philippines. Thankfully God has provided some great people local to us who have taken on the responsibilities of child sponsorship and accounts, but there is still a lot of correspondence and charity requirements that we are only just about managing at present. Please pray for this situation as we really could do with some administration help. Our eldest daughter Rebekah is now at St Bedes, a lovely Church of England secondary school in Cambridge. Rebekah loves school, particularly the library where she goes most playtimes to avoid the cold and wet outdoors. James is still sports mad and has now joined the local cricket team as well as still playing football, table tennis, tag rugby and netball! He will start St Bedes in September and then we will have two children at High school - they grow up too fast! Grace is now in Year 1 and despite her moaning now and again about going to school she does love her teacher and has a good group of friends there. As for me, I am now on my fourth job since returning to the UK! I am currently working as a full time reception teacher at a local primary school, which I really love. It's hard work but my class are lovely and now I never want to go back to teaching juniors. However, the job is again only a maternity contract and so I am looking again for another job which would be permanent. Moving jobs every six months or so can be stressful, especially as I hate interviews! No doubt God has all this worked out in His plan and so we are happy to trust whatever comes our way but it would be nice to have a bit of certainty on the job front (but in this climate I know that's a luxury). We are becoming more involved in our local church and very recently I have joined the PCC, and Tim has become a member of the missionary committee, which has really helped in terms of getting to know people and feel part of the church community. Over the last few months, Tim has really felt God calling him to work with children in this country alongside supporting Jigsaw in the Philippines. Lately we have been put in contact with a number of local schools attached to some of our link churches and so we are exploring ways in which Tim can use his experiences of Jigsaw to talk to children in this country about God's work and how it can transform lives. This is still very much a new vision and we don't quite know yet where this will lead but we are excited to see how this develops. Thank you to everyone who supports us through prayers and gifts. We really do appreciate it. God is truly doing something amazing through Jigsaw and we thank you for supporting us to ensure that it continues.

God bless *Kate and Tim Lee*

The P.C.C. met on 23rd May 2012 and the following matters were reported:

- It was agreed to allow the Christians against Poverty to run a training course of three sessions, one hour each, at the centre in June. However any future bookings will need to be arranged, as required, to ensure the centre is available for the dates required.
- It was agreed to contact the Dioceses for permission to change the heating system in the church and also to look into obtaining a quote for a grant towards the cost.
- It was agreed that the centre would be open from 10am -1pm on Saturday 8th September for the Staffs Historic Churches Trust 'Ride and Stride'. It was also suggested that we run a coffee morning on that day.
- Rev Cranston reported that the Families at 4 sessions are coming to the end of their trial run and they have been very successful with many families coming who do not regularly attend church. It is hoped that the sessions will continue after a summer break

The next PCC meeting will be held on the 19th September 2012

Met the Mission Partners?

On July 15th, many of our mission partners visited us in the Church Centre. Adam and Sarah Baker are preparing to go to Senegal to work with street children, Ralph and Dagmar Baron are working in Vienna for TWR and Interserve, Tim Lee works with Jigsaw Ministries helping street children in Manila, Owen and Tracy Humphreys are about to start work in a school in Asia, Rebecca Williams has just returned from Pakistan. We heard about the work they are doing for us and for God in these far-flung places.

If you would like to know more about our mission partners, and perhaps would like to support them yourself in prayer or financially, speak to Cecilia who will be able to tell you more. There is also a notice board in the Centre with more information.

We also support Stephen and Tabita Bell in Zagreb (*see July magazine*) and Jonathan and Robinah Beesigomwe in Botswana (*see next page*).

(Jonathan and Robinah Beesigomwe, originally from Uganda, are working with school pupils and young families in Gaborone, Botswana)

Dear partners,

We are ever so grateful to the Lord for your love and support. Thanks for the June support that arrived at a time we were ready for it.

June was a good month and we saw the Lord do great things in our ministry. It started with a regional meeting in South Africa with the “One Hope” and “Reaching a generation” (1 -4th June). They provide us with materials for children under twenty to supply to schools through the “Why wait?” programme *(for young people thinking about marriage)*. We were encouraged to keep on keeping on.

This was followed by a “Why wait?” workshop (10 - 16 June) in the 2nd largest city Francis town 450 km up north. It was an eye opener for us and an encouragement to realise our materials can be used across the country without major modifications and across the different age groups. Over 20 people committed their lives to the Lord from a variety of faiths. We were able to distribute 9400 reading materials and another 40,000 will be going there as soon as we get transport.

This was followed by a teachers’ workshop in Gaborone (18 - 29 June) which was another eye opener for individual school programmes. This idea started in April when we went to distribute our character materials to schools in Gaborone. We met the Principal who requested us to do a teachers’ workshop in May. It was this teachers’ workshop that resulted in 8 teachers wanting to be trained to teach our curriculum in one of the best Private schools in the country - Legae Academy.

We are now preparing for another major workshop in Serowe - in Central District - the birth place of the 1st and the current presidents. Our focus continues to be community leaders, teachers and parents and then further training for resource to teach the school curriculum in schools 6 - 20 year olds.

There is hope for this nation since the government is very supportive.

Why this going on we have other things on the table to deal with. Elijah's wedding is planned for 25 August and we should be there.

(continued on next page)

Martha did very well and was admitted to University of Botswana to do B.Admin Marketing. The other children too will need to continue in school. This is one thing that reduces our joy when we imagine all the work we have to do that attracts zero income except from you friends of Africa and a couple of other friends here in Botswana who help to put food on our table. The Lord has carried us through all the way. He never fails to finish what he starts. We need his grace each day and his forgiveness when we have doubted his ability to take us another day. His grace we keep hearing is sufficient. Hallelujah!

May the Good Lord continue to bless you and your families. May He pay you x1000 fold for your investments in this country and others that will be touched by these good news in the programmes God has developed through Family Connections Bows and Arrows.

God bless you lots.

Jonathan and Robinah

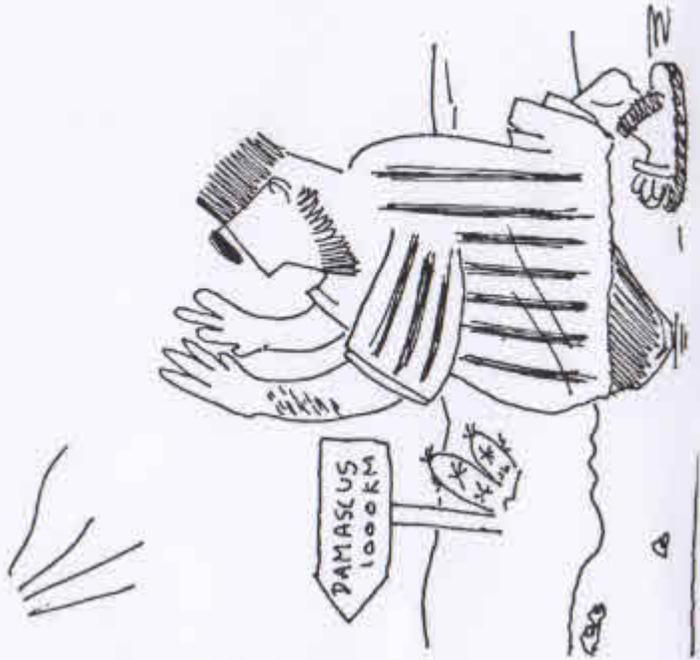
Good News

Adolf Hitler hated the Jews and his venom ended with the final solution the complete destruction of the Jewish race such was his zeal. Saul of Tarsus hated the Christians and his venom ended with the imprisoning and execution of the followers of Jesus and the near destruction of the Church in Jerusalem, such was his zeal.

Is it fair to compare the character of Saul to that of Hitler? Absolutely-yes! Saul's final solution was to wipe Christianity from the face of the world and to this end he had written documents to find and arrest those that had fled in fear from his campaign of terror. The bible vividly describes Saul's feelings at the start of Acts 9 Saul breathed out murderous threats it makes his hatred of the followers of Jesus almost tangible, when I first read this chapter I could feel the hatred in this man. He was on his way to the last Sebastian outpost, Damascus armed with the letters of arrest and a small army when he met Jesus, (acts 9:1-19) He became Paul and the rest, as they say, his history.

We don't all have Damascus Road life-changing experiences, what we do know that like Saul under the gaze of Jesus we are stripped bare, naked before the Lord. He sees us for who we are, he cleanses us through the cross, clothes us anew and gives us new life here on earth and the promise of eternal life in heaven. Now that's Good News!

Steve Garrington-Miller



Steve GM

Saul on the road to Damascus - The Light of The Lord

Trains in the Garden

All Pete's locomotives came out of their sheds on July 7th to raise money for Jigsaw Ministries (working with street children in Manila). Thomas the Tank Engine was there, and was driven round and round by children with happy expressions on their faces. Over £400 was raised. Thanks again to Pete and Liz for letting us all wander round their garden and eat lots of cake in their house, as well as ride on the trains.

Stamp-collecting for the Leprosy Mission

During 2011, The Leprosy Mission raised £83,000 from used stamps and other collectibles. We don't know how much of this was from work done by Sue and others who collected used stamps and sent them off, but it is nice to think that Christ Church made a difference!

Body Shop Afternoon

The Body shop afternoon held on 30th June raised £91 for The Rock Youth Fund

ROADS FOR PRAYER

5th August

Cressey Close
Joules Drive
Cauldon Way
Harecastle Bank

12th August

Saltersford Rise
Rolt Close
Millenium Way
Cameron Wharf

19th August

The Crescent
End of Granville Terrace
Millers Gate
Hartley Drive

26th August

Albert Street
Alexandra Street
Arthur Street
Berkeley Street



Christ Church on the Internet

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

BAPTISM

27th May Jacob John Edwards

SIDESPERSIONS ROTA

AM

5th Aug	P. Roberts	D. Pickles
	A. West	K. Thompson
12th Aug	V. Ledward	G. Donaldson
	G. Holden	J. Abrahams
19th Aug	D. Davies	T. Woodward
	D. Wilson	K. Woodward
26th Aug	C. Wilding	J. Rowlands
	J. Hipkiss	P. Roberts

FLOWER ROTA

5th Aug	Mrs M. Hillman
12th Aug	Mrs B. Boote
19th Aug	Mrs A. Lloyd
26th Aug	Mrs C. Stone

Dear Vicar

Extracts from letters written by children to church ministers.

Dear Vicar, I hope to go to Heaven some day but later rather than sooner. Love, Ellen, age 9.

Dear Vicar, I liked your sermon on Sunday. Especially when it was finished. Ralph age 11

Dear Vicar, my mother is very religious. She goes to play bingo at church every week even if she has a cold. Yours truly, Annette age 9.

Dear Vicar, I liked your sermon where you said that good health is more important than money but I still want a raise in my allowance. Sincerely, Eleanor age 12.

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 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
 Mrs S. Sanders

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 Group	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.org). 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 Academy 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).