

Christ Church and People

Parish Magazine of
Christ Church Stone

40p



November 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
Christ Church Academy, Old Road Principal: Mr C. Wright	354047

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Christ Church



and People

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Please get your contributions for the December magazine to us by 15th Nov

Cover Picture:-
The Avenue

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

November 2012

Thu	1	9:00am	Prayer for persecuted Christians, with Rob and Angela Brandon
Fri	2		
Sat	3	8:30am	Prayer meeting followed by breakfast
Sun	4	9:15am 4:00pm 6:00pm	Communion; Numbers 20:1-13 "Quit Quarrelling" Families at Four - Service for the whole family Christianity Explored
Mon	5	6:30pm	Breathe years 5-8
Tue	6	9:30am 10:00am 12:30pm 3:45pm 6:00pm 7:00pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before midweek service; service at 10:30 Seekers Club Lighthouse years 2-4 Christ Church Academy governors meeting Youth Club years 9-13
Wed	7	7:30pm	Diocesan Synod, Tittensor
Thu	8	1:20pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	9	7:30pm	St John's Church presents: Life in Stone, Flowers and Music (fundraising for Air Ambulance, Girl Guides and St John's church). In Christ Church
Sat	10		
Sun	11	9:15am 10:40am 4:00pm 6:00pm	Morning Prayer. Numbers 21:1-9 "The Cross!" Remembrance Day service, Granville Square Bereavement service Christianity Explored
Mon	12	6:30pm	Breathe years 5-8
Tue	13	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 years 2-4 Youth Club years 9-13
Wed	14		

Thu	15	1:20pm 5:00pm	Christ Church Academy assembly Christ Church Academy Trustees meeting
Fri	16		
Sat	17		
Sun	18	9:15am 2:30pm 4:00pm 6:00pm	Communion John 3:22-26 "To speak the words of God Autumn House service Families at Four - Service for the whole family Christianity Explored
Mon	19	6:30pm	Breathe years 5-8
Tue	20	9:30am 10:00am 12:30pm 1:00pm 3:45pm 7:00pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before midweek service; service at 10:30 Seekers Club Stone Fraternal Lighthouse years 2-4 Youth Club years 9-13
Wed	21	7:30pm	PCC Meeting
Thu	22	1:20pm 7:00pm	Christ Church Academy Assembly Men's Curry night - Ovilash
Fri	23		
Sat	24		
Sun	25	9:15am 4:00pm	Family Service John 1:10-13 "So we can become children of God" Confirmation service
Mon	26	6:30pm	Breathe years 5-8
Tue	27	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 years 2-4 Youth Club years 9-13
Wed	28		
Thu	29	1:20pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	30		

Are you ready?

Few will have missed the skydiver who broke the speed of sound in October. The Austrian skydiver Felix Baumgartner (43, why do we have to know people's age?) prepared for 7 years for this memorable attempt. He jumped from 24 miles above New Mexico and reached a maximum velocity of 833.9 mph (1,342 km/h) during which he broke the speed of sound. No one knew what would happen to his body under such testing conditions; let alone what would happen to his mind! Just how do you prepare for taking such a leap? In an interview before the attempt he gave an outline of how things would proceed: "then my suit will pressurize, I will step out, maybe say a little prayer and step off".

I hope that he hadn't left it to the last minute to "say a little prayer" in what could have been his last skydive! Although it's considered a "taboo" to speak about death in our medically advanced world with a pill for every condition, we must be realistic. The skydive was more likely to bring him to the brink of his life and face the last enemy, which is death. Hopefully he was well prepared as the Bible gives us the sober reminder: *'man is destined to die once and after that to face judgment'* (Letter to the Hebrews 9v27). Yet, it also brings us the good news of how this judgment is averted through the self-sacrifice of Christ, so that we are ready to meet our maker when the time comes.

The writer of Hebrews outlines how Jesus came to give up his life to take away the sins of many and so provide the way of forgiveness and knowledge of God. He reminds his readers: *'and he will appear a second time, no to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him'* (Hebrews 9v28). Salvation involves being reconciled to God and enjoying life with him forever. Jesus promised to return to rescue his people for heaven and make the hope come true.

Few of us would take the step that Felix did in his skydive record, but all of us face hazards and health issues that will bring us to the brink. Are you ready for what is in the future? Only when we have this settled through coming to Jesus will we be able to rightly handle the things of today.

Paul Kingman



The cost of new birth

The spare room has been redecorated, boxes long forgotten in the attic have been raided for baby clothes, the Moses basket has been relocated and dusted down, a new baby seat for the car has been acquired... and so it goes on! I think we're ready – at least as ready as one can hope to be considering the way our lives are about to change!

Having a baby is not so much dropping a pebble in a pond more a brick in a pint glass! The whole of life is affected. Writing in the Guardian in January Rebecca Smithers wrote:

“The cost of raising a child from birth until their 21st birthday has soared to more than £218,000, according to research from insurer LV=”
 And that's not accounting for the time and energy that babies and children demand!

Having children is costly but it's also a marvellous joy and delight and it's a wonderful analogy of what it's like to follow the Lord Jesus and allow him to take up residence in our lives.

In Romans 8:9 the Apostle Paul tells us:

You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.

When we start following Jesus, his Holy Spirit moves in and helps us to become aware of the fact that Jesus is now the boss. And that means submitting to him and allowing him to direct our lives and decisions! I'm always encouraged when I hear of Christians speak of *'being in something of a wrestling match'* with themselves – it's a clear sign that the Holy Spirit is at work! Tensions are bound to arise as we become conscious that our wills and God's will so often fail to coincide. We suddenly discover that life becomes full of choices that we never before faced. Having always done what we wanted, it can come as something of a shock to discover that God's Spirit within us would have us do things differently!

However, as countless millions will testify, for those who do submit to Jesus and allow him, by his Spirit, to take control, there is a joy and a peace that surpasses anything we've ever previously experienced!

The Cranston family *status quo* is about to be redefined, but judging by previous experience it will be well worth it! And from experience, allowing Jesus to redefine one's own *status quo* is also well worth the struggle and the cost! I hope you can say the same! *Andy*

We will remember them

The eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month: this year Remembrance Day falls on a Sunday. Thousands of people will gather at cenotaphs and in churches up and down this land to remember with thanksgiving those who gave their lives in the two Great Wars to preserve freedom in Europe and the world. We will remember how an evil regime that exterminated six million Jews was defeated. We will also pray for those countries and people still involved in conflicts today.

I will be remembering my father who, as a young captain in the King's Shropshire Light Infantry, was ordered to lead his group of men across a ploughed field in northern France toward the enemy line. Unfortunately, the area was still lit up by flares, discharged to assist the RAF in bombing enemy positions prior to the infantry attack, and most of my father's group was shot down by machine gun fire. My father was 'lucky' in that he was wounded, picked up by the Red Cross after the battle and then stitched up in a field hospital. My childhood memories are of his mackintosh and jacket pockets full of 'bisodol tablets' and his difficulties with digestion – not surprising, I suppose, when half his stomach had been removed. On 11th November we will remember all those who made sacrifices to ensure a just and peaceful world and still do today.

At the beginning of this month, many churches hold memorial services around All Saints and All Souls Day to remember those who have gone before us yet who are very much alive. This year is particularly poignant for me as my mother died back in February. Memory is a special gift. It connects us with people and events which are no longer present to us. Someone we love dies and we feel a desperate need to be connected with them. I keep thinking of things I want to tell my mother and then am painfully aware that she is no longer here.

Memory helps us here but it can work overtime. A cloud of grief descends. Grief is not bad – good and necessary – but it can be very painful especially when the loss is so great we are tempted to suppress it. Memory, however, makes this almost impossible – it continually confronts us with our loss. It stirs up things so that we are tempted to try and block out our memories. But to forget the ones we love is to do them a great injustice.

(Continued on next page)

We will remember them *(cont)*

I sense that we all have a longing not just to belong but also to be remembered. To be forgotten is to be treated as if we never existed. I wonder whether what people fear is not so much death as being forgotten?

Jesus also wanted to be remembered. In his love for us he left a significant way of remembering him, namely, Holy Communion. 'Do this', he said, 'in remembrance of me'. The wonderful thing is that when we *re-member* him in this way he actually becomes present to us. We are the Body of Christ.

If we love someone, there is no reason why their memory should rise up like a ghost to haunt us. Rather, it may be like the visit of a friend who comes to us with gifts. Memory fills our life with their presence. It can help us let go of negative feelings like anger and guilt. In their place can come a flood of memories to cherish. Memories, like good wine, improve with time. Perhaps, one of the ways of repaying the debt we owe the departed is not to forget.

This November we can celebrate the reality that, living and departed, we are all children of God's family. If our loved ones are close to God then they are also close to us because, by his Spirit, God is very near. We will remember them.

The Rt Revd Mark Rylands, Bishop of Shrewsbury

A memorial service for the bereaved

On Sunday 11th November we hold a special service in the afternoon for those who have been bereaved. The invitation is open to any who wish to come together to remember, give thanks and receive God's comfort.

The service will be at 4.00 p.m. in Christ Church, Stone and family and friends of those who have died are welcomed. It is a time when we have a special act of remembrance together and also look to God for strength.

If you would like to attend please let the church office know so that we can give you more information.

Paul Kingman

Families @4

Owing to the success of Families @4 (we've had 100 different people pass through the doors since we started in January) we will be meeting twice monthly - on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month.

The format will remain the same - Cake, craft, songs and Bible stories, starting @4pm done by 5pm and we would love to have more people joining us, whether or not you're already involved in one of the benefice churches! The dates up to Christmas will be:

November 4th

November 18th

December 2nd

December 16th

We look forward to seeing you! For more information contact Andy Cranston on 818983 or acranston.cstone@gmail.com

Confirmation Service

A Confirmation service will be held on Sunday November 25th in Christ Church at 4pm, with Bishop Geoff Annas, Bishop of Stafford, officiating.

Advent Evening

This year's Advent Evening will be held on Saturday December 1st in the Centre. Please contact Diana for details. Diana will be especially pleased to hear from you if you would like to sing, tell a story or entertain us all in some other way.

“Evening of Music and Flowers”

St John's Church will be presenting an “Evening of Music and Flowers” in Christ Church on Friday November 9th at 7:30pm. Admission will cost £8 (including refreshments). Proceeds will go towards the Air Ambulance, Girl Guiding and St John's Church. Tickets can be obtained from our church office.

Fairtrade Goods

Fairtrade goods will be on sale in the Centre after the morning service on November 25th.

Royal Foundlings Visit

We had a very successful mission week last month with Glasgow based rockers, the Royal Foundlings.

The band was able to take music classes, run lunch time concerts and take the assemblies at Alleynes High School. The band was well received by staff and pupils alike. Many of the young people really enjoyed the music classes where they were able to write and perform a song to their peers. Some of the youngsters did such a good job that the band invited them to join them on stage for a song on the Friday night concert!

The band was supposed only to have one lunch time concert however following the great success of the first lunch time gig 200+ young people showed up to hear the band sound check for the assemblies on the following days.

The band also had the opportunity to play at Christ Church Academy. This was a fantastic time and the young people of CCA really enjoyed the band! To see the reaction of the young people of CCA to the band go on YouTube and search for 'Royal Foundlings Rock! in Christchurch Academy!'

Friday night's concert was also a great success, so much so that some youngsters began to arrive two and a half hours before the concert began! Overall there were almost a hundred people in church to hear the band. A great night was had by all! Steve Karma a friend of mine from bible college came along and shared his story of how he came to know Jesus and his message was well received by the young people.

All in all the week was a tremendous success.

I would like to thank everyone who was able to help with meals, stewarding and various other ways. I would also like to than those who committed the week to the Lord in prayer.

(To see some photos from the Friday night concert consult the Christ Church website.)

Kieran

Blessed or Oppressed?

We are most BLESSED in the British Isles to be able to follow our Christian faith without hindrance. We can meet together in home, church or public places. We can print, read and share the bible. We can enjoy fellowship and worship. We can get jobs, own property and lead our lives very much as we are led by the Christian faith.

In many countries the Christian faith is OPPRESSED and the same blessings we enjoy, and sometimes take for granted, are denied to a degree not seen since the Roman Empire. The daily threat of abuse, violence, harassment, discrimination and imprisonment by neighbours and the state makes life itself extremely difficult.

The BARNABAS FUND seeks to support Christians who are suffering in this way by not only meeting immediate needs resulting from such persecution but by placing a large emphasis on prayer support, knowing that however helpless we feel, God will respond to our prayers.

So, please support the fund's national day of prayers on;

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1st at CHRISTCHURCH.

The church will be open from 9.00am until 1.00 pm for anyone who can spare 15 minutes or more to offer prayers for persecuted Christians around the world. Each 15 minute session will have a notional focus on a particular country but any prayers, for any country, at any time would be a great, and much valued, support. With the whole nation taking part we can help make a difference to somebody, somewhere feeling despair but clinging to their Christian faith.

Rob Brandon

Faith doesn't get you around trouble, it gets you through it.

Heading in the wrong direction? God allows U turns.

Doubt limits you from what is already yours, but faith unlocks the doors allowing you to walk in and receive it." - *Jeannette Tyson Gregory*

If God brings you to it, He will bring you through it.

Those who walk with God reach their destination.

When you are down to nothing, God is up to something.

The PCC. met on 19th September 2012 and the following matters were reported:

- The Youth fund has received a welcome boost due to an increase in ongoing support and several one-off gifts however more support is needed, regular support being particularly welcome.
- The efficiency of heating system in church is under investigation as it was discovered that the existing system may not be heating the water in the pipes correctly and therefore the pipes in church were not providing the required level of heat.
- The “Holiday at Home” sessions run in the summer, for retired people, were well received and attended. The young people who helped enjoyed the sessions too. Consideration is being given to running something similar next year.
- Rev Cranston reported that he would like to set up a group within the church family to provide practical DIY help to anyone within the community who is struggling. Possibly on a monthly basis. The idea was welcomed by the PCC who agreed that within the family we should be able to provide a wide range of skills and enthusiastic people.
- Mrs Woodhead reported that she now has 18 people signed up for Compassion and we have been allocated our sponsored child.
- The internal and external decoration has been completed and seems to be to a very good standard. The original chairs are still failing, and replacements are being investigated.

After some discussion it was proposed that we look into purchasing 20 folding chairs, the same as our current chairs on the trolley, together with about 30 anti rock chairs. Hopefully samples will be presented at the next PCC meeting

The next P.C.C meeting is on Wednesday 21st November at 7.30pm.

12 **Gambia Water Project Update October 2012**

AIMS

To provide clean drinking water from wells in all schools, medical units and populations of 500+ in The Gambia. The project is a one-off capital project with no direct employees, no consultancy fees and minimal expenses. Construction is to be outsourced, and funds are to be managed by a top firm of local Accountants e.g. KPMG.

CONTACTS

Paco .. A local family leader in Banjul.

Gambia Government .. Departments for Health and Agriculture.

UK Government .. Local MP Jeremy Lefroy, who sits on DfID committee.

The Gambia Experience .. Support via subsidized flights and local contacts.

Christ Church Stone .. Support via prayers, governance and donations.

Stafford Grammar School .. Support through a keen interest in the project, and possible alignment to a Gambian school.

THE GAMBIA

A fantastic country which rightly earns the marketing phrase of ‘The Smile of Africa’. Size is similar to Wales, except that the country is long and thin and borders The River Gambia. Population size is about 1.2m, roughly the same as Northern Ireland. Average GDP per person for 2011 was £200 / \$300. The country is considered safe, and the cultures live together in great harmony.

The main ‘export’ is tourism, but only a fraction of the earnings remain in The Gambia as most hotels are foreign owned. The main imports are fuel and food. The Gambia grows rice, peanuts, and vegetables, although it can suffer from extreme weather ranging from extreme heat (9 months of the year) to intense rainy seasons (3 months of the year). There is a plentiful supply of fish. The population is a happy and hard working. There is a growing ambition for more education, health and living standards.

STATUS

Stage 1 requires circa £750, and stage 2 requires circa £2,000.

Current donations amount to £350. Meetings held with all UK parties, and contacts established with all of The Gambian parties.

(continued on next page)

Gambia Water Project *(cont)*

FUNDING

1,000 wells at £10,000 each, gives a total funding need of £10m.

The UK Government will match fund up-to 50%/£5m of any capital project through its' DfID department.

This means that £5m has to be raised for the project.

If we can get 20 wealthy individuals to each commit to £250,000 each then this raises the full target. Please note that after Gift Aid, this reduces the net donation to £125,000 per donor.

Stage 1 .. This enables full charitable registration, setting up proper governance, and provides materials for targeting the top 200 wealthiest in UK.

Stage 2 .. Funds fact-finding trip to The Gambia to enable agreements to be established with the local Department for Agriculture and Department for Health. Stage 2 will also fund the application for the UK DfID grant. Please note that I will fund the main costs of this trip by way of a personal charitable donation.

TO Dos

Complete the raising of key stage 1 £750 .. By October 2012

Complete the charitable registration/governance .. By October 2012.

Complete fact finding trip to Gambia .. By November 2012.

Complete 200 wealthy donors contacts .. By December 2012.

Start a contact system for all interested parties so that progress can be followed on a minimum of once a month basis.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP

Support the project with thoughts and enthusiasm.

Believe !!

Consider how you can help in any way to get to stage 2 funding targets.

Please pray for the success of the overall project, and in particular the attainment of Key Stage 1.

Kevin

¹⁴ Have you ever wished you had read more of the Bible? Why not start in January?

I get the Explore (for your daily walk with God) bible notes by the Good Book company. One set lasts for 3 months and costs £3.50. You can try them out, you don't need to commit to the whole year, so you can see how you find them. You have a daily reading with small passage from the bible, followed by some questions and thoughts about the passage, finishing with prayer relating to what you've read. If you don't already, have you thought of starting the new year with reading the bible more regularly, with a view to bringing God's word into your life?

You can see more about these notes at www.thegoodbook.co.uk, or contact me if you would like me to get the notes for you.

Louise

The Bible is well-known to be most commonly owned book in Britain. However, it is among the least read. It has to be said that few of us will sit down to read 100 pages of the Bible in an evening, although in past years this was not uncommon. Why not read just a small section each day, together with a short explanation of what the passage is about, and how it can help you. Scripture Union produce several sets of dated notes (there is a page for each calendar date) and some undated notes (to be read any day you like). Among the most well-known are:-

“Daily Bread”	This is the “standard” for adults
“Closer to God”	If you find “Daily Bread” too lightweight
“Encounter with God”	Meant to be more relevant to modern life than “Daily Bread”

There are several other sets of notes from SU; some are available on-line (if you i-read or e-read). All available from the SU website or any Bible bookshop.

UCB publish “Word for Today” notes, which are free of charge (I think), although donations are welcomed. UCB will even email you a reading every day, so you won't even have to remember to get the notes! You will need a Bible! Get one from the church bookstall (or on-line).

If you are one of the many thousands of Christians who only read the Bible in church, why not make a small effort to do better. You will soon wish you had started earlier. Do it now.

Dave Bell

ROADS FOR PRAYER

4th November

Nicholls Lane
Old Road
Old Road Close
Oulton Cross
York Street

11th November

Oulton Road
Oulton Mews
Princes Street
Queen's Square

18th November

Navigation Loop
Rangeley View
Barnton Edge
Anderton Way/View

25th November

Bentley Close
Rendel Close
Brindley Close
Rudyard Close



'In God's Time' Advent Quiet Day

Friday, 30 Nov 2012 - 10:00 to 16:00

We all know how busy the lead-up to Christmas can be, and many of us yearn for it to be otherwise, and for space to really prepare ourselves to celebrate the gift of Christ's birth into our lives afresh. This Advent Quiet Day will include real amounts of time for silence, between short addresses focusing on the theme of time and waiting.

Repeated on Saturday 1 December.

Location: Shallowford House

Leader: Revd Dr Jeff Leonardi

Cost: £21 includes lunch and refreshments

Church Family News

John and Jan Butterworth are grandparents! Congratulations to Andrew and Michelle on the birth of Josiah James.

Best wishes to Louise Kelly and Pete Mason on significant birthdays.
More special birthdays coming soon. *Enid*

FROM THE REGISTERS

BAPTISM

9th September Kate Sullivan

FUNERAL

31st August Irene Sparks Age 89

SIDESPERSIONS ROTA

AM

4th Nov	D. Wilson	K. Woodward
	D. Davies	T. Woodward
11th Nov	P. Roberts	D. Pickles
	A. West	K. Thompson
18th Nov	G. Holden	J. Abrahams
	V. Ledward	G. Donaldson
25th Nov	P. Hipkiss	J. Rowlands
	C. Wilding	D. Davies

FLOWER ROTA

4th Nov	Mrs D. Davies
11th Nov	Remembrance Day
18th Nov	Mrs D. Tunstall
25th Nov	Mrs E. Woodhead

Christ Church on the Internet

Parish website	www.christchurchstone.org	Parish office
email	christchurch.centrel@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 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).