

Christ Church and People

Parish Magazine of
Christ Church Stone

40p



January 2013

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

Principal: Mr C. Wright	354047
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Christ Church



and People

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

Cover Picture:-
High Street

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

January 2013

Tue	1		
Wed	2		
Thu	3		
Fri	4		
Sat	5		
Sun	6	11:00am 4:00pm	Communion, Covenant service Preacher Paul Mallard United Benefice service followed by shared lunch Families at Four "The girl no-one wanted"
Mon	7		
Tue	8	10:00am 3:45pm 7:00pm	Coffee before midweek service; service at 10:30am Lighthouse yrs 2-4 Youth Club yrs 9-13
Wed	9	7:30pm	Standing committee
Thu	10	1:20pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	11		
Sat	12		
Sun	13	9:15am 6:00pm	Morning Prayer. Acts 4:24-30 <i>"The believers' prayer when facing threats"</i> Communion. 1 John 1:1-10 <i>"God is light"</i>
Mon	14	6:30pm	Breathe yrs 5-8
Tue	15	9:30am 10:00am 12:30pm 3:45pm 6:00pm 7:00pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before midweek service; service at 10:30am Seekers Club Lighthouse yrs 2-4 Christ Church Academy governors meeting Youth club yrs 9-13

Wed	16		
Thu	17	1:20pm 7:00pm	Christ Church Academy assembly Gedeons - Chris Axelby <i>"How God is changing lives"</i>
Fri	18		
Sat	19		
Sun	20	9:15am 2:30pm 4:00pm 6:00pm	Communion. Acts 7:59-60 <i>"Stephen's prayer at his death"</i> Autumn House service Families at Four - <i>"The forgiving prince"</i> CTiS united service at Walton Priory Middle School
Mon	21	6:30pm	Breathe yrs 5-8
Tue	22	9:30am 10:00am 12:30pm 3:45pm 7:00pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before midweek service; service at 10:30am Seekers club Lighthouse yrs 2-4 Youth club 9-13
Wed	23	7:30pm	PCC meeting
Thu	24	1:20pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	25		
Sat	26		
Sun	27	9:15am 6:00pm	Family service. Luke 18:10-13 <i>"Jesus' teaching on prayer"</i> Communion. 1 John 2:8-27 <i>"The abiding command"</i>
Mon	28	6:30pm	Breathe yrs 5-8
Tue	29	9:30am 10:00am 12:30pm 3:45pm 7:00pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before midweek service; service at 10:30am Seekers club Lighthouse yrs 2-4 Youth club 9-13
Wed	30		
Thu	31	1:20pm	Christ Church Academy assembly

‘Immanuel’

Communications are getting quicker. A letter used to be a fairly good way of communicating and a next day delivery was impressive. Telegraph messages could send a message across the world. The ‘facsimile’ (fax), was so fast that a letter you’d typed could spew out in another location a few minutes later.

As the technology becomes more sophisticated so the messages are getting briefer. So, with a computer or mobile phone you can now e-mail, text or tweet. The last of these uses ‘Twitter’ which permits a limited number of characters to be used for communication. It is surprising how much you can say in a few words whether you intended to or not. But, if you had to sum up a profound message in one word, then it is a lot trickier.

People’s names often have meanings. For those who have had the privilege of having children there is often a struggle to name them. It’s worse for teachers due to the inevitable associations with former pupils!

When it comes to the birth of Jesus Christ, various names and titles are used. One of the most meaningful is the name or title ‘Immanuel’. We are told the meaning by the Gospel writer: ‘All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ‘The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him ‘Immanuel’ – which means, “God with us” ‘ (Matthew 1v22-23 quotes from Isaiah’s prophetic message, Matthew supplies the meaning).

Immanuel is a stupendous word for the New Year! The presence of God with us was literally true in the birth of the infant Jesus. But is also true in the ongoing sense for us now. If we are a follower of Jesus Christ then we can take this promise to heart: Jesus will be with us through all of the ups and downs ahead. That is worth remembering. It is worth tweeting. It provides us with an unchanging reality come what may.

May your New Year be filled with the hope that comes from knowing Jesus who is known as ‘Immanuel.’

Paul Kingman



The privilege of prayer

The story is told of an explorer wandering through the jungle when much to his alarm he came upon a family of dozing tigers. Slowly he began to inch his way backwards hoping to avoid detection. All was going well until he stepped on a twig at which point the largest of the tigers sat bolt upright with menacingly wide eyes glaring at him. The colour drained from his face as he sank to his knees and cried out “God, save me!” With head bowed he waited for the end and was surprised when after several moments nothing happened. Slowly he raised his head and to his utter astonishment saw the family of tigers with eyes closed, resting on their hind legs and with their forepaws clasped together. At exactly that moment the smallest tiger opened its eyes and catching the explorers glance said in a gruff voice “Don’t know what you’re doing but Daddy’s saying grace!”

Well, whether we find ourselves in the company of the explorer or the tigers, prayer is something most of us do at some point in our lives– even the great atheist Richard Dawkins was heard to do so on national radio last year! For as much as we like to think that we’re the boss of our lives, deep down, if we’re brutally honest, we know that we’re subject to events and powers beyond our control. And when disasters or disease or death strike, it’s only natural to want to appeal to the force or being that has control over them.

But the way and frequency with which we pray depends on our view of God. If God is aloof, impersonal and ambivalent then we’ll pray much as the explorer did – when disaster strikes and with uncertain pleading. However, if we know the God to whom our prayers are address, we’ll pray like the tiger family with confident gratitude for God’s provision and goodness.

I suspect that most of us are familiar with the way Jesus taught his disciples to pray but in our familiarity with the Lord’s Prayer I wonder how often we ponder the depth and magnitude of the first word Jesus uses? “*When you pray, say: ‘Father ...’*” Luke 11:2

It is utterly staggering that we are permitted to call the Creator of the universe, the Sustainer of all that is, Father. Regardless of what our human fathers are or were like, God is the perfect Heavenly Father. The Bible is full of stories that show us the depth of God’s love, concern and compassion for his children and my hope and prayer for 2013 is that all of us discover more fully the care of our Loving Heavenly Father and as a result increasing turn to him in prayer. Why not seize the moment and start now?

Andy

Families @4

Since we started up Families@4 last year over 100 people have passed through the doors! In the autumn we started going through **the Jesus Storybook Bible** which shows how every story in the Bible beginning with Genesis whispers Jesus' name!

There's cake, craft, stories and songs and most of all lots of fun!

The dates for this term are as follows:

6 Jan	– <i>The girl no one wanted</i>
20 Jan	– <i>The forgiving prince</i>
3 Feb	-- <i>God to the rescue</i>
17 Feb	– <i>God makes a way</i>
3 Mar	– <i>10 Ways to be perfect</i>
17 Mar	– <i>The warrior leader</i>

We do hope you can join us!

For more information contact Andy Cranston on 818983 or acranston.ccstone@gmail.com

How does God change lives? Ask the Gideons!

An open invitation to come and hear Christopher Axelby tell us how the work of Gideons simply giving away Bibles has impacted people's lives in dramatic ways.

Start time: 7.00 p.m. coffee and cake followed by our guest speaker.

Venue: Christ Church Centre, Stone.

The Gideons International is giving away copies of The Bible at the rate of over 2.5 every second of every day. The Gideon branch here in the Stone area are involved in going into local secondary schools and still have the opportunity to give away the little red New Testament and Psalms. That little red book has lead many young people to Christ in their formative years, many of those people today are now Ministers in local churches

United Benefice service

**11.00 a.m. on Sun 6th Jan 2013 Christ Church, Stone
Guest Preacher: Paul Mallard**

I hope that you will be able to join us for an important service at the start of the year. We will meet all together for a service of Holy Communion and rededicate ourselves to the Lord and his service for the year ahead. After the service do plan to stay to have a bring and share lunch together: Christ Church, Stone to bring savoury dishes and Oulton with Moddershall to bring desserts.

About Paul Mallard Paul Mallard is the Director of Training and Development of the Midlands Gospel Partnership and former pastor of Woodgreen Evangelical Church in Worcester. He is now part of the pastoral team of Monyhull church Birmingham.

He is zealous for teaching the Bible so that it is readily understood and applicable to life today. He believes that training a new generation of Christian leaders is very important and has been involved in a number of training programmes. Paul served as president of the FIEC from 2004 to 2007. He is married with four children, and still feels great affection for Birmingham where he was born and brought up, and he is a keen West Bromwich Albion supporter.

Advent Windows 2012

December 4th – Zeta & St Michael's 1st School

At 10.55 a.m. on a bright, crisp morning the High Street was very quiet; only the 'Happy Christmas' cover over Zeta's window told us that their Advent window was being opened today. At 11 o'clock prompt, the entire Year 4 from St Michael's 1st School arrived for the opening of their window, joining the onlookers who seemed to appear from nowhere! Head Teacher Mary Gale welcomed everybody and opened the window to show a large paper-mache Mary in bright blue cradling Baby Jesus (created by the Year 4 craft group). The children led us in the singing of 'Mary's Boy Child', accompanied by Chris Campbell-Kelly on the accordion. Then Mrs Gale gave a prayer of thanks to God for His gift to us at Christmas.

Sheila

Mornings at Christ Church and Oulton: Prayer.

A short burst of sermons on prayer to get us off to a good start in the New Year. As we look at some of the Bible's teaching on prayer we learn a little about ourselves and a lot about God! Here's some inspiration to pray in the right way. But, there's no substitute for getting on and doing it.

Moddershall & evenings: Genuine discipleship.

The first letter of John is sprinkled with remarks about the importance of Jesus' birth. The fact is that Jesus came in the flesh. Believing this is essential to Christian faith. But that's not all. Come and find out what else John teaches us about genuine discipleship.

An Evening with Phil and Arthur

Saturday 2nd March at 7pm in the Centre

Something for Everyone

Sale of plants and pots of spring bulbs

Have a guess at some games – 50p a go
with great prizes to be won

Be part of a team in a light-hearted team quiz

Refreshments

Proceeds to the Church general fund

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

2012 was a great year, what with the Queen's Jubilee, the Olympics and William and Kate's expected baby. It was a tough old year too with recession refusing to go away and more and more young people out of work or training. Is it all getting better or worse?

It's been like that for the church too. George Fisher's new way of calculating the statistics, which looks at all services during the week, shows clearly that overall the churches in our diocese are growing by around 2% per annum. But some tough decisions have had to be made as to where best to put our resources and where to do some pruning. The initiative called "Plain Speaking" has meant that every parish is clearer now about their situation in relation to their neighbours.

By now every Deanery and every parish should have a Mission Action Plan. Just about every deanery knows what the situation is, how many paid clergy we can afford and what kind of goals we should set ourselves for the year. Above all we can have fresh goals for prayer so that all of us are waiting to catch the wind of the Spirit.

In the story of the visit by the Wise Men to Bethlehem we read that "when they saw where the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy." My prayer for all the churches in our diocese is that we will know what it is for the Star to stop over our church so that we can be places of overwhelming joy for our neighbours as well as ourselves.

After bringing their gifts the Wise Men were warned in a dream not to return by the same route or see King Herod but rather to go back home by another route. My prayer is that we will see the guiding of the Holy Spirit in all our churches and that he will prevent us from going the wrong way.

Above all I believe God is calling us to stay steady with our five-theme vision. Of course, we will see all sorts of changes this year. Two of our most experienced archdeacons are due to retire and we have lost some of our most experienced clergy over the past few months. But we will face that loss within the framework of a steady vision: Discovering the heart of God, Growing New Disciples, Reaching New Generations, Transforming Communities and Practising Generosity.

(continued on next page)

I commend the work done by the Mission Department working closely with the Ministry, Transforming Communities and Education departments to help congregations Grow New Disciples and to help Disciples Grow. “Following On” is a leaflet full of new ideas and courses for every kind of parish which I hope every congregation will consider.

One of my favourite Epiphany hymns has that beautiful line: “With gold of obedience and incense of lowliness, Kneel and adore Him, the Lord is his name.” May we be so overwhelmed by joy that we bring our gold of obedience to worship him and our incense of lowliness to change our communities for the better.

Bishop of Lichfield, The Rt Revd Jonathan Gledhill

Interruptions

I don’t know about you, but I don’t always enjoy interruptions when I answer the phone and there is nobody there. However, not all interruptions are a problem.

I had a letter recently from Wycliffe Bible Translators who are involved in bringing the Scriptures to minority groups around the world and this involves ministry to the Deaf community. One day two deaf men knocked on the door of the translation office in Mexico, by mistake. They thought it was a temp agency and they were looking for work. Rather than turn them away, the translation team took the opportunity to give them DVDs of Jonah, Philemon and Ruth in Mexican Sign Language.

The next day one of the men returned. He and his deaf family members had watched the DVDs and were very interested in learning whether there were more available! The team had also distributed the DVDs to churches and a home group for Deaf Christians, where they have been received with eagerness. Recently a deaf graphic artist who accepted Christ after seeing the Jonah video began working part-time with the team.

On Sunday January 6th we hold our annual United Benefice service at 11am at Christ Church, where we will together commit ourselves to the Lord and his church for another year. The beginning of a new year is a good time to take stock of where our lives are going, where we need to adjust our priorities to bring us in line with his will, and to seize the opportunities given even if we are interrupted in the process. *Ann*

Dear Christ Church Family,

We are so blessed to have you as Mission Partners. Your gift arrived safely and did a marvellous work. It was so timely that while I was in Uganda for the wedding of our son Elijah, no one could tell we were missionaries. And even when we both came back. Robinah from an All Africa One Hope Conference in RSA and I from Uganda we had enough to run around to churches and schools to deliver materials before schools close. What a mighty God we serve. May the Lord continue to bless Christ Church, Its leadership and members.

Pray for crucial planning meetings for next year.

While in Uganda, many were asking, “When do you come back?” We need to hear clearly from the Lord of the harvest about His timing. The work here (*in Botswana*) keeps increasing but we can stay beyond 2014 if funding from partners improves. Martha who has been waiting for university for a year is now ready to go to school and it looks most likely that she too will go to Uganda.

Our Marriage Fitness Adventure Programme looks really good. We have two groups that meet monthly and the school programmes are ongoing. We may have the Gaborone Community leaders and School Heads and Denominational Leaders Workshop 14 -18 January 2013. Once the Bishops understand the programme, it will be easier to get breakthroughs. May the Lord continue to increase you.

Jonathan and Robinah and family

Happy New Year!

From all of us who help to produce this magazine

Hiding God's Word in your heart

Recent issues have carried articles encouraging daily devotional Bible reading, with suggestions of helpful explanatory notes that are available. I write as one approaching 90 who became a daily Bible reader in my mid-teens, some 75 years ago, using Scripture Union notes, currently their "Encounter with God" series. My understanding is that this (and maybe some other) SU syllabus covers the whole Bible every five years, so by this means alone I have read the Bible at least 15 times. Granted, as an ordained minister I have also been committed to its regular study.

My purpose is to tell how, as a result, I have become steeped in the Bible. In its own words, I have hid God's Word in my heart, and it is this regular daily reading that I consider has been the main help. This familiarity with Scripture has enabled me to develop a spiritual mindset leading to worthy as well as godly living. It gives me general guidance for daily living and occasionally guidance specific to a personal situation. There are also surprises from unexpected and seemingly superfluous passages or verses: 2 Samuel 23:20 being an example. I cannot overstate the value of daily devotional Bible reading to enable me to live increasingly closer to Jesus and to really enjoy the Christian life.

It is not easy to think of any single word of advice I can give to a Christian other than this: develop the habit and the sooner the better.

Jack Bell

Christ Church 1889

Some of you may remember that a few years ago, a set of our church magazines from 1885 was spotted for sale on Amazon by an eagle-eyed reader. We read in those magazines that the church that the church was re-opened on February 21st 1885 after considerable re-building work. The vicar was Rev Walter J. Thompson, and a new curate, Rev Arthur Pearman, was welcomed to the church on Thursday January 8th.

New hymn books, "The Hymnal Companion" had been bought and were placed in every pew when the church was re-opened. After much debate, pew rents were abandoned in 1885 by universal agreement; however, later in the year the vicar mentioned that since these had formed part of his salary, he was feeling somewhat worse off. In December 1885, the Christ Church Temperance Reading Rooms were inaugurated, to encourage men in the parish to give up alcohol.

On the next page, we reproduce some of the news from January 1889.

13 Walter J. Thompson was still the vicar and the Rev E.J.C Ince was the curate (Rev Arthur Pearman left at the end of 1886). Two new schools had been built, and as a result, the church had still an outstanding debt of £200 at the beginning of 1889. The old school buildings were disused in January 1889. Now we have some church magazines from 1889!

News from Christ Church, January 1889

The WATCH NIGHT SERVICE was very well attended. After shortened Evening Prayer, the litany, " Father from Thy throne on high," was sung kneeling, and the Vicar then sought to guide the thoughts of those present on the subject of God's mercies, and their relations to Him in the past, and to humble resolves of renewed devotion in the New Year. At 12 o'clock, the Te Deum and " O God our help in ages past" were sung, and the interesting and solemn Service closed with the Benediction.

On New Year's Day, by the kind help of many friends, the MOTHERS' MEETING had their annual tea in the large School-room ; it was a pleasing sight to see how the members had increased during the past year ; about 110 were present. Useful and helpful addresses were given by Dr. Fernie and Mr. Bishop. The mothers warmly applauded the vote of thanks, proposed by the Vicar, to the subscribers and helpers.

On January 2ud, the PAROCHIAL TEA was held in the Schools, and though we did not number so many as on former occasions, the evening's enjoyment was in no way inferior. After a short address on matters relating to the Church, a varied musical programme afforded delight to all present. The statement is given below.

On January 4th, the STONEFIELD CHILDREN'S MISSION had their annual Tea, followed by a Magic Lantern Entertainment, exhibited by Mr. Frank Fernie, and it is needless to add, the boisterous youngsters appreciated the good things provided. Again we are indebted to the generosity of friends, and the kindness of the ladies who collected.

Yet another Tea on January 10th, when the YOUNG WOMEN'S BIBLE CLASS, at their own charges, met for their annual social evening. After tea, they spent a very enjoyable evening in the usual merry games, interspersed with music and recitations, and brought to a close by a few words of counsel from the Vicar, with singing and prayer.

Our monthly Meeting of the PAROCHIAL BRANCH OF THE Church of England Temperance Society, held on Monday, January 7th, passed off well. We were ably helped by many kind friends, who gave their services in a programme consisting of readings and music. The branch is making steady progress, and is in a healthy state.

Walter J. Thompson

Churches Together in Stone

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Saturday 19th to Thursday 24th January 2013

Saturday 19th

Christ Church	8.30am	Ecumenical Prayer Meeting <i>(Followed by Breakfast)</i>
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Sunday 20th

Christ Church	4.00pm	Families at 4
Walton Priory	6:00pm	Preacher Jeff Reynolds
Middle School		

Monday 21st

Christ Church	9.00am	Prayer Meeting (for Schools)
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Tuesday 22nd

Christ Church	10.00am	Holy Communion
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Wednesday 23rd

St Saviour's Aston	12 noon	Short act of worship together followed by simple lunch
St Dominic's Church	7.30pm	Taize Worship

Thursday 24th

St Michael's Church	10.30am	Holy Communion
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VARAZDIN REGION / CROATIA 5 NEW CHURCHES!

The door for preaching the Gospel is opened. Also, the door of the biggest building in Cultural centre (which has about 2000m²) is opened for Christian activities. A lot of good things are still before us and, from the time that our dear brothers – the missionaries from Brazil - came to us, our faith is even stronger that a new church will be planted in Novi Marof. However, in order to continue a mission work in Novi Marof we need, first of all, prayers; but we also need financial help for renting the hall in Cultural centre and the Office for Christian counselling in which we meet people during the week.

Can you be with us in this need to fulfil noble goals? Thank you so much for your understanding, prayers and help. Our love and prayers be with all of you. Yours in the Lord Jesus,

Pastor Jonatan Vukov & Mission team Zone 1, CROATIA

ROADS FOR PRAYER

6th January

Kent Grove
Meaford Avenue
Mount Avenue
Mount Crescent

20th January

Stonefield Square
Victor Street
Victoria Street
Whitebridge Lane

13th January

Mount Road
Mount Street
Old Road
Stonefield Court

27th January

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



P.C.C. news

The P.C.C. met on 21st November 2012 and the following matters were reported:

- Content of the church website is under review and any ideas for items to include would be gratefully received.
- Investigation and improvements to the heating system are ongoing.
- Mr McKnight reported that Breathe youth club is very well attended and Mr McKnight would be interested to hear from anyone who is able to help on a Monday evening.
- It is hoped that a weekend trip to a Christian camp can be arranged for children attending Breathe.
- It is proposed that there will be another trip to Romania in 2013.
- The Royal Foundlings visit was successful. It is hoped that another visit can be organised next year.
- We were able to send 30 filled shoeboxes off to Operation Christmas Child.
- The internal and external redecoration of the centre is now completed. A new cooker has been fitted and 60 new chairs for the centre ordered.
- The Covenant Service will be held on Sunday 6th January 11am at Christ Church followed by a shared lunch

The next P.C.C meeting is on Wednesday 23rd January 2013 at 7.30pm.

Baptism

Oct 28th Isla Marie Sweetman

Funerals

Oct 23rd	Thomas Vernon Gerrard	Age 86
Oct 26th	Marian Buckley	Age 80
Oct 29th	Yvonne Hagan	Age 47

Sidespersons Rota

	AM		PM
6th Jan	V. Ledward G. Holden	G. Donaldson J. Abrahams	
13th Jan	J. Rowlands D. Davies	C. Wilding D. Wilson	D. Shemilt
20th Jan	P. Roberts D. Pickles	T. Woodward K. Woodward	
27th Jan	P. Hipkiss V. Ledward	A. West K. Thompson	P. Tunstall

Flower Rota

6th Jan	Flower Guild
13th Jan	Flower Guild
20th Jan	Flower Guild
27th Jan	Flower Guild

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 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).