

Christ Church and People

Parish Magazine of
Christ Church Stone

40p



February 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
--------------------------	---------------	----------	--------

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

IN THIS ISSUE

Diary for February	2, 3
9-a-day: more nutritional advice?	4
Hallowed be your name	5
Families at Four	6
The Orient Express	6
An evening with Phil and Arthur	7
Life on the Frontline	7
Children's Society boxes	7
Street Pastors	8, 9
A New Name	9
Christingle Service 22nd December	10
A view from the back of the band	11
Bibles in China	12
Christ Church 1889	13, 14
Carbon Fasting for Lent 2013	15
Roads for Prayer	15
From the Registers, Rotas,	16
Groups and Activities	17

Christ Church



and People

Please get your contributions for the March magazine to us by 15th Feb

Cover Picture:-
Victor 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

February 2013

Fri	1		
Sat	2	8:30am	Prayer meeting followed by breakfast
Sun	3	9:15am 4:00pm 6:00pm	Communion; Col 1:3-14 "A prayer of thanks" Families at Four - service for the whole family Evening Prayer 1 Jn 2:28-3:10 "How God's children forsake sin"
Mon	4	6:30pm	Breathe years 5-8
Tue	5	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	6		
Thu	7	1:20pm 6:30pm	Christ Church Academy assembly Christ Church First School governors' meeting
Fri	8		
Sat	9	evening	Orient Express departs
Sun	10	9:15am 6:00pm	Morning Prayer: Lk 4:1-13 "Tried and tested" Communion 1 Jn 3:11-4:6 "Overcoming sin and evil"
Mon	11	6:30pm 7:30pm	Breathe years 5-8 Stone Deanery synod; speaker Godfrey Stone
Tue	12	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	13	10:00am	Lent course
Thu	14	1:20pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	15		

Sat	16		
Sun	17	9:15am 2:30pm 4:00pm 6:00pm	Communion; Lk 4:14-30 “Unrolling the plan” Autumn House Families at Four - service for the whole family Lent course
Mon	18		
Tue	19	10:00am	Coffee before midweek service; service at 10:30
Wed	20	10:00am	Lent course
Thu	21		
Fri	22		
Sat	23		
Sun	24	9:15am 6:00pm	Family service; Lk 5:17-26 “Standing room only” Lent course
Mon	25	6:30pm	Breathe years 5-8
Tue	26	9:30am 10:00am 12:30pm 3:45pm 7:00pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before midweek service; service at 10:30 Seekers Club Lighthouse years 2-4 Youth Club years 9-13
Wed	27	10:00am	Lent course
Thu	28	1:20pm	Christ Church Academy assembly

9-a-day: more nutritional advice?

I was idly listening to some expert nutritional advice on a website. ‘The five foods to avoid in order to lose weight’ was a catchy headline. But the video message was wrong about each item it highlighted: orange juice, margarine, wholemeal bread...’ We switched off in disgust before hearing any more. The reasons did not square with the science we knew!

The church looks like it needs to go on a diet: it’s easy to spot that it’s out of condition. But what will spare it from more bogus advice? One person has written: ‘God’s mission into this world will be more effective when we become visible signposts to the reign of Christ in our lives; when His glory shines through us. The transforming of God’s people into the Jesus we proclaim brings authenticity to the message we proclaim because people see it alive in us.’ The annual return of attendance figures to the Diocese may tick the box for some, but can in fact encourage us to pander to the wrong target. The transformation of God’s people to become more and more like Jesus Christ is less tangible. But it is the business we are to make our target: to make disciples who are growing in their likeness to Christ: *‘So then just as you received Christ as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were once taught, and overflowing with thankfulness’* (Colossians 2v6-7).

The Bible teaches us how to become mature Christians; it is the sword of the Spirit whose work changes us. We have a crucial part to play in this. A simple project initiated in January is called “9-a-day.” It encourages Christians to shun sinful behavior and instead develop the nine fruits of the Spirit – Christ like qualities: *‘But the fruit of the Spirit is loved, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control’* (Galatians 5:22-23). Such a beautiful cluster of fruit will show the character of Christ. If we choose to study these qualities and pray daily that they develop in our lives, then we will show Christ to the world in both our words and deeds.

You are welcome to join us as we meet to develop these 9-a-day as local churches. I dare you to take the plunge with us.

Paul Kingman



Hallowed be your name

The famous naturalist William Beebe tells of a little ritual that he and President F.D.Roosevelt used to have after an evening's chat. Going outside, they would gaze up at the stars until they found the lower left-hand corner of the big square of Pegasus. Having done so, Beebe would recite these words: "That is a spiral galaxy of Andromeda. It is as large as our Milky Way. It is one of 100 million galaxies. It is 750,000 light years away. It consists of 100 billion suns, each larger than our sun." After a pause Roosevelt would finally say, "Now I think we feel small enough. Let's go to bed."

Feeling small is not something that most of us welcome. We like being big and independent. The Adidas advert: *'Impossible is nothing'* is a mantra for how we would like to think we can live. But however big and important we like to think we are, at the end of the day we are very small indeed when confronted with the world around us let alone the vastness of Space!

And the God we worship is bigger still! The second line of the Lord's Prayer reads: **Hallowed be your name.** (*Luke 11:2*) It's a petition in which we ask for God to be worshipped as holy by everyone everywhere. In other words that all people adore God with honour, respect and reverence. Last year in Lent, our Lent course focused on the holiness of God and we were shown that holy when applied to God means that he is set apart from us – bigger than us and more morally pure than us.

Hallowed be your name trips off our tongues so easily, but I wonder, how good are we at being active in helping to bring it to pass? Do we for example adore God with honour respect and reverence ourselves? Do we take time to listen to what he has to say and seek to obey it?

Allowing the Creation around us and the vastness of Space and Andromeda to humble us is a good place to start but we can't stop there! Adoring God with honour, respect and reverence means we need to forfeit our own desires to be big and independent for the sake of obediently submitting to and serving Him. It's far from easy – but then Jesus never said it would be! I guess that's why he encouraged his disciples to pray about it!

So as Lent approaches what about taking something on as opposed to giving something up? Why not set yourself the challenge of seeking to adore God with honour, respect and reverence? After all, the Bible tells us it's what we're destined for, either willingly or unwillingly, so we may as well start now!

Hallowed be his name!

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:

- 3 Feb** -- *God to the rescue*
- 17 Feb** -- *God makes a way*
- 3 Mar** -- *10 Ways to be perfect*
- 17 Mar** -- *The warrior leader*

We do hope you can join us!

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

Our journey on the Orient Express

On the 17th February 2001 the Orient Express left Christ Church Centre on a great journey. Some of you will recall that evening - some may wish to forget!

Twelve years later, more or less, on Saturday 9th February, we are very fortunate in having gained permission once again to use the vintage carriages and set off in our Edwardian costume on another journey of adventure across Europe.

A beautiful meal will be served as we wend our way across borders and through stunning scenery. Your waitress will serve you at your candlelit table and exciting entertainment both comical and musical will be provided.

All this for the price of a small number of sovereigns with the aim of contributing towards the Youth Fund for the good work to continue beyond September 2013.

Contact Pete for tickets

Fairtrade goods

Fairtrade goods will be on sale after the morning service on February 24th.

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

Life on the Frontline (Lent Course)

This creative and practical small group resource is a six-session DVD series for small groups seeking to help one another live fruitfully and faithfully for Christ in the daily places of life and work. Each session has a short film, discussion material, Bible reflections and stories illustrating how the principles have been worked out in real life.

We will run groups at various times including Sunday evenings so that you can take part. More details will be available in a flyer to follow.

Children's Society House Boxes

It's that time of the year again.

If you have a Children's Society house box could you let me have it, please. Either bring it to church, give it to me or leave it in the office please do not leave it in the church.

Alternatively let me know and I will collect it from your home.

Sandra Morray

Children's Society Secretary

‘A cold coming we had of it, Just the worst time of the year for a journey..... The very dead of winter.’

The opening lines of ‘The Journey of the Magi’ by T.S.Eliot. This poem refers to Epiphany when Jesus was ‘presented’ to the world but they are words to which many Church Members will relate as they leave the warmth and comfort of their homes to go out onto the streets of our towns and cities, working through the night with those who have been enjoying themselves in pubs and clubs, or who hang around the streets through loneliness.

Street Pastors, Street Angels and other similar groups are one of the good news stories of the Christian Church in recent years. Putting aside theological and other differences, churches of various denominations come together in order to offer the world of the night time economy practical caring and a ministry of prayer. Teams of all ages (over 18) are trained to work alongside the police, night club door staff and those who marshal the taxi ranks, supporting young (and not so young) people on Friday and Saturday nights through to the early hours of the morning. While they do this, often there are Prayer Teams at their ‘base’ keeping in touch with them and praying for the people they encounter.

Although the understanding is that Street Pastors should not be there to ‘convert’ and are certainly not there to judge the behaviour they witness (which is often fuelled by alcohol and other drugs), their very presence on the streets at 3.00 am in the pouring rain often leads people to ask “Why do you do this?” and this is when Jesus is introduced into the conversation – and from personal experience this is the point when the discussions really get going!

Those of us who have had the privilege of sharing in this ministry know that there is a genuine and lively interest in spirituality and in God among the young people we meet. We hear of ‘Nans’ who go to Church and the impact they have had; of questions about ““if God exists, why do bad things happen” and (sadly) how “I’m not good enough to be a Christian!”. Organised religion does not tend to figure in the discussion unless it is to share bad experiences or the general assumption that going to church is ‘boring!’, but there is often a genuine appreciation of individual clergy and ministers who have helped families.

(continued on page 9)

Christingle Service 22nd December 2012

About 60 Oranges were made into Christingles by the children and parents, the children finding out what each symbol represented. The crafts were great this year once again thanks to Estella. It was a very busy time and a great atmosphere, with a few old friends arriving and joining in.

At 4.30pm we went into church where there was singing, prayers for the Children's Society followed by a talk from Andy.

Afterwards the children brought their Christingles to the front, they were lit and we sang "Away in a Manger", it was lovely.

Afterwards we enjoyed refreshments.

This year children from Christ Church First school took a Christingle collecting candle home and along with children from Christ Church and the Toddler Group. A fantastic £286-88p was sent to the Children's Society, helping them to continue their valuable work with young runaway and homeless children in the UK.

On behalf of the Children's Society a big thank you to all who gave so generously and supported the Christingle Service.

Sandra Morray
Children's Society Secretary

Before we can begin to see the cross as something done for us, we have to see it as something done by us. *John Stott*

Our business is to present the Christian faith clothed in modern terms, not to propagate modern thought clothed in Christian terms... Confusion here is fatal. *J. I. Packer*

After grief for sin there should be joy for forgiveness. *A. W. Pink*

Let God's promises shine on your problems. *Corrie Ten Boom*

Anger is the fruit of rotten roots. *Joyce Meyer*

God has given us two hands, one to receive with and the other to give with. *Billy Graham*

A view from the back of the band...

I play in the band at Christ Church, and that is remarkable. Not the fact that I play – give me the chance, and it’s hard to stop me – no, the fact that I play in church every Sunday is the remarkable thing, because I play clarinet and saxophone. Many churches have just one musician, on the organ, and manage perfectly well, but we are fortunate to have a number of musicians, both singers and instrumentalists, in this church. Even this is not that remarkable, though; there must be guitarists, singers and recorder players in most congregations. The remarkable thing, for me, is the willingness of this church to experiment musically – to use different musical styles in our worship, and to encourage everyone in the congregation to join in with the music making.

Some of the music we make is ‘traditional’; some ‘modern’, but there is an understanding that whatever the style, the aim is the worship of God, and as we are a diverse family, our music reflects this diversity. The band members ourselves are from a range of musical backgrounds, from classical to rock, and in every Sunday selection there are some songs that appeal to certain band members more than others, but we all try to work together to keep the music flowing. In the congregation too, I am aware that some people prefer one style, some another. How am I aware of this? People feel able to talk to us, to criticise, sometimes to compliment, but their comments are always valuable as feedback shapes how we lead the singing from week to week. And that is what we try to do – our music-making is not a ‘performance’, but it should provide a sort of framework so that everyone feels that they want to join in.

Personally, I am delighted to be able to use my small musical talents in the worship of God, and I know that my fellow musicians would agree. It is a rare privilege to be in a position to ‘make a joyful noise to the Lord’ in the way I feel most comfortable, and be a part of this welcoming and accepting community. Of course, it goes without saying that any other musicians lurking out there are always very welcome to join us!

David Beauchamp

The only right a Christian has is the right to give up his rights.

Oswald Chambers

(Millions of) Bibles in China

In November, China's Amity Printing Company celebrated as its 100 millionth Bible rolled off the presses. Two thirds of these have gone into the hands of Chinese Christians. The rest have been exported around the world. The landmark is testament to the continued extraordinary church growth in China - and the Bible has seen an amazing turnaround from banned book to bestseller. Just over 40 years ago, copies of Scripture were confiscated and often burned. When the Cultural Revolution ended, the Bible was first printed on the press that had formerly produced Mao's Little Red Book. Today, the printing factory is vast, and the state-of-the-art equipment can produce a Bible every second.

Thanks to support from the "Bible-a-month Club" over the years, millions of Chinese Christians now hold the Bible they longed for. Through subsidising paper, you have put copies of Scripture into the hands of a whole generation.

Give thanks for the amazing church growth in China. Pray that Amity Printing Company will be able to meet this huge appetite for Scripture. Pray for staff there, for energy and wisdom in their work. Pray for preachers like Wang Hai (*see eyewitness report on the website*), ministering to rural communities in China. Pray for strength and safety as they travel long distances, and pray for the spiritual growth of these remote groups of Christians.

Part of our mission in China is to train pastors, by supporting them at Bible college, giving them resources and skills to minister to their church. Pray that the programme reaches the right people and equips them to lead. Many Christians in rural China are illiterate and are unable to read the Bible for themselves. Thanks to your support, we're now running literacy classes to help them. Pray that students would be diligent in their studies and would be motivated by the reward of reading Scripture for themselves.

Bible a month Club www.biblesociety.org

You can join the club through the website, or possibly by phoning 01793 418118. Minimum subscription is £4 per month by direct debit.

Each month, your subscription will pay for a Bible to be sent somewhere in the world (hence the name), and a letter will arrive behind your front door with a report telling you where the Bible was delivered.

As mentioned in the January magazine, we have been given copies of the Church Magazine from 1889. It is interesting to see what was going on in our church so long ago.

We want all hands to work and clear off the *building debt* on the New Schools. How is it proposed to be done ? By having a large *Sale of Work* in May next, with at least six stalls, all laden with articles useful and ornamental. We hope no one will wait for a formal asking, but join heartily and skilfully in the effort. Some who have no time themselves for work, can give money and furnish part of a stall. There ought to be not less than £35 worth on each stall, and as much more as possible. We want to clear £200. The Ladies' Working Party are putting in their work with the stipulation, that those Societies which have always benefited to the extent of £10 each, shall have their rights safe-guarded, and this has been agreed to. Don't let any one say the time is too short, all experienced in such efforts agree that the real work is always done within the last two or three months. Still there is no time to be lost, we need to be up and doing. We hope all our readers will do something for the cause. The effort must not be left to the few, it is most important that the effort be united, and such as will successfully clear off the debt. We hope to publish in next month's Magazine the names of those ladies who have undertaken stalls, and to whom work may be sent.

Since the Mission, *classes* have been carried on for further instruction in the subjects of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Holy Communion, and their relation to the great central doctrine of Justification by faith in Christ Jesus. The members of these classes met for a united devotional meeting on Monday, 11th of February, when the Vicar delivered an address which summed up the previous teaching, explained the nature of the Confirmation Service, and described the true self-dedication and its blessed results.

THE CONFIRMATION was held at 5-30 p.m. on Tuesday, 12th February, by the Bishop of Lichfield, and it was very pleasing to notice the earnest and reverent demeanour of the candidates. There were 67 in all, and half were adults. The first hymn, "Holy Ghost, great gift of grace," was sung kneeling. An address by the Bishop on the subject of Self-surrender followed. The Candidates then sang, "In full and glad surrender, I give myself to Thee." The solemn question was asked, and each one severally returned the expressive answer, " I do." After the prayers and the Laying on of Hands, the Bishop gave a most helpful address to the newly Confirmed, on the source of spiritual strength, and gave as his motto: "Abide in Me, and I in you," St. John xv. 3. The first part of the text, he said, taught us the Christian's safety; the latter, the Christian's strength. Both addresses were most impressive. *(continued over page)*

After the Service, the newly Confirmed, at the Vicar's invitation, met for tea in the School-room, and the remainder of the evening was spent very happily. Addresses were given by Mr. W. H. Bishop, Mr. J. Lamont, Mr. W. Taylor, and the Vicar, interspersed with bright hymns.

The Vicar acknowledges the kind gift of 10s. towards the expense of the Confirmation tea. If the sum could be supplemented he would much rather devote it to the purchase of suitable *books for the Confirmees*, and bear the cost of the tea himself. The 67 candidates might each have a shilling book, if a further sum of £2 were given. "The Pathway of Safety," by Bishop Oxenden, is a most useful book for this purpose. Whether your Vicar can have this pleasure depends upon those who read this.

The youths belonging to the *Stonefeld Tuesday Evening Bible Class* had a Tea in the School-room on Monday evening, January 27th. After the tables had been cleared, Mr. G. I. Wood exhibited a miscellaneous collection of slides, from a Magic Lantern kindly lent by Dr. Fernie. The evening closed with a few words from the Vicar and Mr. Ince.

On Tuesday, 12th February, *The Men's Bible Class* had their Annual Tea, and though our numbers were not so high as last year, 130 gathered round the "social board, "and about half of them" were members of the class. All were delighted to see Lord Harrowby arrive during tea. The possibility of his coming was known only to a few, he was, however, quickly recognized, and received a very hearty welcome. After the tea the Vicar spoke upon the proofs of the Divinity of the Lord Jesus, arising from His life, and its results on the world, quoting the remarkable testimony of Napoleon. Lord Harrowby spoke upon the internal evidence for the truth of the Bible, arising from its faithfulness in recording the failings and sins of good men, contrasting human biographies where the tendency is always to hide them. He encouraged the men to look above and beyond the present to the heavenly life above. Dr. Fernie gave an interesting sketch of the history of the Church in England. Mr. Bishop spoke upon public worship and the Holy Communion. Mr. Ravenscroft proposed a vote of thanks to Lord Harrowby, and alluded to his coming in spite of the heavy fall of snow. The proposal was immediately received with enthusiasm, and his lordship briefly replied. The very pleasant evening closed with a hymn and prayer.

Written by the vicar in 1889, Walter J. Thompson

Dr Fernie is mentioned several times in the report. There is a memorial to him on the inside wall of the church, close to the ramp near the new doors. One foot of snow fell throughout England on February 10th -11th, 1889. Lord Harrowby was probably Dudley Francis Stuart Ryder, 3rd Earl of Harrowby (1831-1900), of Sandon Hall.

ROADS FOR PRAYER

3rd February

Longton Road
Margaret Street
Newcastle Road
Newcastle Street

17th February

The Avenue
Trent Road
Tunley Street
Trinity Drive

10th February

Northesk Street
Radford Close
Radford Street
Station Road

24th February

Airdale Grove
Airdale Road
Airdale Spinney
Cross Street
Lotus Court



Carbon Fasting for Lent 2013

Maybe you remember the Carbon Fast from TearFund in 2012? Here are some new ideas for Carbon Fasting this Lent.

- Buy local food (low food-miles)
- Use public transport
- Use low-wattage appliances
- Eliminate “Electrical Vampires” - Unplug appliances when not in use
- Buy recycled products
- Collect rainwater for use in the garden
- Don’t buy bottled water, drink tap water
- Cook with a microwave oven instead of a conventional oven
- Hand-wash dishes
- Dry clothes on the clothes line instead of in the tumble-dryer
- Give up eating meat
- Limit food wastage
- Compost vegetable waste
- Pick up some rubbish from the street and recycle it if possible
- Grow your own vegetables – Lent is a good time for planting
- Take a shopping bag to the supermarket (walk there, of course) and avoid using the plastic bags
- Take a military (cold) shower (!)

BAPTISM

25th November James Peter Hallows

FUNERALS

9th November Marian Buckley age 80
 10th December Peter Lester age 51

SIDESPERSIONS ROTA

	AM		PM
3rd Feb	J. Rowlands G. Holden	G. Donaldson J. Abrahams	D. Shemilt
10th Feb	P. Roberts D. Davies	C. Wilding D. Wilson	
17th Feb	A. West D. Pickles	T. Woodward K. Woodward	
24th Feb	P. Hipkiss V. Ledward	G. Donaldson K. Thompson	

FLOWER ROTA

3rd Feb Mrs M. Hillman
 10th Feb Flower Guild
 17th Feb Lent
 24th Feb Lent

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).