

Christ Church and People

Parish Magazine of
Christ Church Stone

40p



August 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 office@christchurchstone.org	811990
Deaconess (Retired)	Ann Butler	818160
Readers	Dave Bell David Rowlands Michael Thompson Cecilia Wilding	815775 816713 813712 817987
Music Co-ordinator	Pete Mason	815854
Wardens	Andy Stone David Beauchamp	286526
Deputy Wardens	Phil Tunstall,	817028

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 MAEd	354047
------------------------------	--------

IN THIS ISSUE

Christ Church



and People

Diary for August	2, 3
The sun shines on the.....?	4
Holidays: Sun and laughter? Or something more?	5
Christian Aid Week	6
Sponsored Cycle Ride and Walk	6
Pastoral Letter for August	7, 8
Oasis - a summer club for the retired	9
Mags Vaughan	9
Communion	10
Lichfield Diocese Cricket Team	11
Latest from Maranatha Missions	12
Sunday sermon passages	13, 14
Roads for Prayer	14
MAF to purchase two Kodiaks for Ministry Work in Indonesia	14, 15
Registers, Rotas,	16
Groups and Activities	17

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

Cover Picture:-
Newcastle Road

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

Subscriptions

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

August 2013

Thu	1	2:30pm	Oasis - An holiday club for seniors
Fri	2	2:30pm	Oasis - An holiday club for seniors
Sat	3	8:30am	Prayer meeting followed by breakfast
Sun	4	9:15am 5:00pm	Communion 1 Peter 5:1-13 "Jesus-like leaders" Evening Prayer, All Saints, Moddershall Genesis 25 "The end of an era?"
Mon	5		
Tue	6	10:00am	Coffee before midweek service; Service at 10:30
Wed	7		
Thu	8		
Fri	9		
Sat	10		
Sun	11	9:15am 5:00pm	Morning Prayer Acts 18:1-10 "Remarkable guidance" Communion, All Saints, Moddershall Mark 11:12-25 "The fruit of faith"
Mon	12		
Tue	13	10:00am	Coffee before midweek service; Service at 10:30
Wed	14		
Thu	15		

Fri	16		
Sat	17		
Sun	18	9:15am 5:00pm	Communion Acts 16:11-34 "Salvation comes to Philippi" Evening Prayer, All Saints, Moddershall Mark 12:1-12 "Landlord and tenants"
Mon	19		
Tue	20	10:00am	Coffee before midweek service Service at 10:30
Wed	21		
Thu	22		
Fri	23		
Sat	24		
Sun	25	9:15am 5:00pm	Morning Prayer Acts 17:1-15 "The Gospel in Thessalonica and Berea" Evening Prayer, All Saints, Moddershall Mark 13:24-37 "Watch for the signs"
Mon	26		
Tue	27	10:00am	Coffee before midweek service Service at 10:30
Wed	28		
Thu	29		
Fri	30		
Sat	31		

Fairtrade goods will be on sale after the service on August 25th

The sun shines on the....?

One day of sunshine and we all change into hot weather clothes! Two days of sunshine and the smell of Bar-B-Q's wafts around the streets. The sweltering heat experienced at the end of the school term has taken many by surprise. The outside seating areas at restaurants and cafes have really come into their own. It almost feels like living in the Mediterranean as you saunter down the High Street, enjoying what we neither worked for nor arranged to have.

People often say about the sunny days: "The sun shines on the righteous!" It's a saying that suggests we deserve a treat and it makes up for a rubbish week. In fact this is a MISQUOTE, which gives only half the actual sentence and is misleading.

The words spoken by Jesus are very different. Jesus once talked about a really hard thing that his followers should do. The proof that we are children of the heavenly Father is to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us! Jesus led by example when he was executed by crucifixion and prayed for his enemies *'Father, forgive them as they do not know what they are doing.'*

He followed this challenge about demonstrating a powerful love with the saying: *'He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous'* (Matthew 5v45). Jesus' disciples have as their example God himself, who loves so indiscriminately that he sends sun and rain on both good and evil, those in a right standing with him and those who are his enemies. This 'common grace' is God's favour shown, without distinction, to all of humanity.

God's example provides the incentive for Jesus' disciples to become like their Father. If they have come to know his love, as shown in the death of his Son Jesus for our forgiveness, then it changes the direction of life. His followers are now to live and love in a way far excels the way of the world. In fact, Jesus encourages his followers to 'be perfect' by following his example.

You may enjoy the sunshine as an experience of the common grace of God. But have you come to know God's special grace, which is ours only through Jesus Christ? There is so much more of God's love to discover and to demonstrate.

Paul Kingman



⁵**Holidays: Sun and laughter? Or something more?**

“How many sleeps until the summer holidays?!”

No doubt such a countdown will not have been unique to us! And now here they are! The waiting and anticipation has finally been rewarded. The shackles are off, the uniform buried away and a whole month of fun, sun and play lies ahead! At least that’s the expectation!

Tents will have been dusted down, bags packed, caravans cleaned, ferries boarded and flights booked. And who knows, perhaps even a red London bus done up ready for a trip to Athens! (Though I expect Cliff Richard prefers other modes of transport these days!!)

And whether it be Wales, Weymouth, Whitchurch or Western Australia the hope will be of sunshine, sights, fun and relaxation. Ever since God rested on the seventh day, time for rest and relaxation have been basic human requirements.

In Mark 2:27 Jesus reminds the Pharisees that “*The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.*” Holidays are simply an extension of this. After all, the word ‘holiday’ derives from ‘holy day’, a day or period of time that was to be different. Set apart from other days, it was a time when the labour of work halted and people had the opportunity to be a family together and remember with thanksgiving their Creator.

Remembering our Creator is something the writer of Ecclesiastes urges upon us having spent 11 chapters experiencing just about every activity and indulgence on offer!

Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come,

Remember him – before the silver cord is severed, or the golden bowl is broken.

God has so structured our days, weeks, months and seasons that we should have time for rest, relaxation and remembering, but sadly it seems that many enjoy the rest and relaxation but fail to remember.

They fail to remember that God is the source of all the good things we enjoy

They fail to acknowledge or thank him.

They fail to take his advice and listen to his counsel.

They fail to trust that he is the best companion and guide through life.

They fail to recognise his authority, power and dominion.

And they fail to seek the forgiveness and new life that he offers through the Lord Jesus.

I hope that this summer holiday we won’t be so forgetful as we enjoy a spot of God given rest and relaxation!

Andy

Christian Aid Week

Many thanks to everyone who supported this year's Christian Aid Week. Considering the current economic climate and the number of houses collected from, the resulting total was very good. The total for Christ Church, including a few donations was £1312.58p and of that £472 was gift aided. The total for the wider Stone area was £9320 (up £100 on last year) and of that £3620 was gift aided. Make no mistake, this money will be put to good use by Christian Aid in many parts of the world where they work with partners who can act in the best interests of the people they are serving. Thank You.

Phil Tunstall

Staffordshire Historic Churches Trust

Sponsored Cycle Ride and Walk

A day to visit many churches which are usually closed

Saturday 14th September 2013

Saturday 14th September is not so far away - so make a note of the date now!

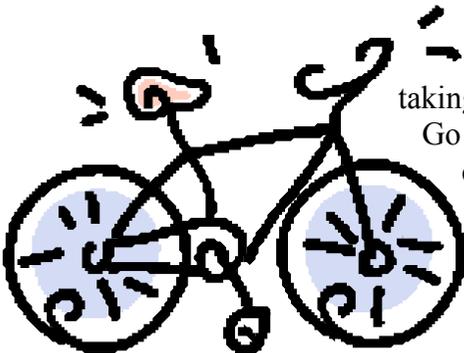
How about cycling or walking round our area visiting churches? Collect sponsorship for the number of churches you visit. There are churches involved all over the county. The sponsor money is equally divided between the Historic Churches Trust and our own church.

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

Sponsor forms are available from Dorothy Wilson who also knows a walking route round Stafford taking in ten churches.

Go now and put the date on your calendar!

Dorothy



Pastoral Letter for August

In his August Pastoral letter the Bishop of Stafford, the Rt Revd Geoff Annas concentrates on the power of prayer and how this can be the centrepiece of a caring and supportive church.

Those appointed to make recommendations concerning the future provision of services at Stafford and Cannock Hospitals have requested an extension of the time given them to produce their report. This is both necessary and encouraging. Clearly they are aware of the potential implications of their report not just for the people of Stafford but for those living in the whole of the West Midlands and beyond. The reduction of Accident and Emergency provision, Intensive Care facilities and Maternity Services at Stafford Hospital will result in more demands being made on other hospitals in the area – including those in Wolverhampton and Burton. These hospitals are themselves already over-stretched and the staff have genuine concerns about how they will cope with an influx of even more patients.

The two people charged with producing the Report have been given a huge task which I am sure grows bigger by the day. They have to address issues both clinical and financial which will also have an impact on the community – for the reduction of services in our hospitals will mean that more care is going to be required by people in their own homes. Again, those already working in the community are often fully – stretched and as central government and local councils rely more and more on the voluntary sector to make provision in areas they can no longer fund, individual community workers are feeling the pressure.

A recent estimate has suggested that 6.5 million people in this country are now caring for others in the community. This has financial implications (it is hard if not impossible to hold down another job if you are caring for someone) and also an impact on the quality of family life. I personally remember the strain put on my parents when my elderly grandfather came to live with us – although we loved him, his routines and outlook were very different to our own and he missed his independence. As a long-haired rebellious teenager of the 70's, I inevitably had to bear the brunt of everyone's unhappiness!

(continued on next page)

As followers of the Way of Jesus, have an important role to play. Jesus came alongside those who were struggling and shared their burdens. He found time to listen and when he could offer practical help he was not afraid to do so. He gave of himself totally in the service of others and whilst acknowledging the very real difference between God's Kingdom and the kingdoms of this world, was always willing to immerse himself in the joys and challenges of what we call 'community'.

Churches in our Diocese are responding to the demands of the present financial situation in many and imaginative ways. From 'Food Banks' to 'Weekday Drop-Ins' for carers – from offering a 'Sitting Service' so Carers can themselves pop to the shops to making sure that there are members of the congregation licensed to take Holy Communion into the homes of those unable to come to Church. So many good and appropriate ideas that show that we as a Church do care for those who care and are willing to offer support to those who support.

And we should not be ashamed to offer prayer as the centre piece of our caring and support. A recent Mission Weekend in a Parish yielded 38 requests for prayer from people shopping in the High Street on a Saturday morning – and this in just one hour! Prayer is the life-blood of the church and we should offer it regularly and faithfully for all whom we know to be in need – even if we do not know them personally. Certainly the administrators of Stafford Hospital have been in my prayers – as well as those who will be affected by the decisions that are made, and I would ask you to remember them in your prayers too.

With love and my prayers for you,

The Bishop of Stafford
The Rt Revd Geoff Annas

Oasis – a summer club for the retired

‘Oasis’ is a summer club that is for retired people. It will be on three afternoons from Wednesday 31st July to Friday 2nd August 2013. It will run from 2.30 to about 5.30 p.m. in Christ Church Centre, Stone.

We have a variety of activities including singing, games and quizzes, video of the Bible lands, a trip down memory lane, Bible reflection and an afternoon tea with waitress service! The cost is just £1 per day.

So, we hope that you will come and join the fun!

*Paul & Sue Kingman,
Shirley Hallam.*



Mags Vaughan is Chief Executive of Traidcraft

Mags (Margaret) Vaughan is the younger daughter of Roger and Sally, and has just been appointed as the chief executive of Traidcraft. She has worked for them for 9 years. She said

“Traidcraft is an amazing organisation, not only doing inspirational work in an increasingly competitive fair trade marketplace, but transforming lives across the world through its development work, and a leader in the battle for trade justice – I can’t help but feel motivated!

Of course we are not immune from the commercial realities of the UK retail climate, the financial realities of raising funds from sources whose priorities are changing and a fair trade landscape that is evolving and changing at some pace.

So I feel very privileged to be chosen to establish and take forward a refreshed strategic vision that will help us take advantage of a new enthusiasm from consumers for ethical, traceable supply chains and for engaging with companies with real integrity – companies like Traidcraft.”

Communion



By the bird table
 I stand motionless...
 hand stretched out...
 like a branch,
 fruited, with a crumb of bread.

One day, the robin will come to me
 When he hardly knows I am here
 His cold sharp claws dig into the palm of my hand -
 Such closeness....yet
 such distance between us.

I am filled with inexpressible love
 for this little bird as he eats the bread

And just for a moment....

Head on one side, his eye looks into mine
 And In that split second *We are both* overwhelmed with -
 thankfulness - trust - and love.

And then he's gone...busy on his daily round
 A nest to build
 A worm to catch
 A chick to feed
 A song to sing
 A life to live

I still stand, un-noticed, patiently waiting
 for the next time
 when he will put himself in my hands,

and eat the bread I provide



Roger Vaughan

Lichfield Diocese Cricket Team

The Lichfield Diocese cricket team has been doing well - they won the Church Times cup in 2010, and have on other occasions reached the finals. And now our very own Andy Cranston is part of the team, they have reached the final again! Andy reports:-

We played 2 group games and had 2 scratched. Then won our quarter-final and semi-final.

(<http://www.churchtimes.co.uk/news/cricket> is where you can access info about the success of Lichfield diocese cricket team!)

Lichfield 191 for 6

(Darlington 111, Hack 37; Rainbow 2 for 37, Trethewey 1 for 28).

Birmingham 191 for 9

(Rainbow 79, Lanham 65; Taylor 4 for 60, Lefroy 2 for 41).

Lichfield won by 3 wickets.

Coventry 122 for 8

(Gandon 36, Mobberley 40; Lefroy 2 for 19, Ackroyd 2 for 28).

Lichfield 123 for 4

(22.1 overs) (run rate of 5.65) (Gregory 47*, Cranston 42; Vogel 3 for 16)

Lichfield won by 6 wickets.

Quarter-final

Lichfield 269 for 6

(Rylands 104, Taylor 67, Reynolds 36; Miles 2 for 53).

Leicester 112 all out

(Broadley 54; Cranston 4 for 13, Ackroyd 2 for 20, Reeve 1 for 13).

Lichfield won by 157 runs.

Semi Final

Chichester 105 all out

(Gray 33, Simmonds 32*; Taylor 3 for 24, Reeve 2 for 19, Lefroy 2 for 26).

Lichfield 107 for 4

(Darlington 38, Rylands 24*; Joseph 2 for 13, Simmonds 1 for 28).

Lichfield won by 6 wickets.

**Final: London at the Walkers Stadium on Thursday 5th September:
Lichfield v London**

Maranatha Missions is involved in five main projects:

1. Children's Ministry:- we try to help the children who do not know Christ as saviour to find the way of Life and to choose Christ as their Saviour.

- we provide a free Lunch once a week to a number of 100 children
- we are involved in running Kids Clubs during Summer time to as many children as God provide
- we try to teach the children to be able to play some musical instruments (Bethany church in Simleu) to perform for Christ.
- we provided shoes for 147 children who did not have shoes to go to school in Autumn 2012

2. We have ministries over adults too:

- we preach the Gospel to all people
- we try to provide food for over 250 families who live in extreme poverty
- we provide teaching for adults to grow in Christ and to be better prepared to serve the Lord Jesus Christ

3. Ladies ministry is a separate ministry which provide a huge growth over the ladies who follow Christ.

4. We have a youth ministry which is growing very well.

5. We have a social involvement: - through this project we help people to find support for surgeries or other medical issues that their life is in danger. We help widows who need wood for winter, food, other needs.

This week we have been involved in running a kids club in Saldabagiu. About 49 children learn how to follow Christ and also we provide for them a free lunch. The kids have had for the very first time peanuts, butter and milk chocolate.

Please pray for those children to follow Christ.

Thank you very much again.
May the Lord richly bless you.

Mircea

Pause to reflect:

Going deeper with Sunday sermon passages

The following questions are given as suggestions for individual or group study with the hope that they will take you deeper into the passages we're thinking about on Sunday Mornings in August.

Thoughts before the sermon

August 4th 1 Peter 5:1-13 "Jesus-like leaders"

Which of these characteristics of church leaders are good?

1. Doing the job because nothing is available that pays better
2. Doing the job because nobody else will do it
3. Doing the job because they have a right to the position
4. Eager to serve God and the congregation
5. The job gives status in society and in the town

What sort of people will be devoured by the devil? Why does the devil prowl around the church?

Why is our desire to stand up for our faith important to others?

August 11th Acts 16:1-10. "Remarkable guidance"

What is the place of direct guidance from God? For example, in dreams, visions, prophecy?

Are there any circumstances in which such guidance can override what we read in the Bible?

How important is it that the Church is respectable, and that those who preach God's word are acceptable to those who hear it?

Surely we should avoid conforming to the Worldly expectations of modern society?

How important is it that God's word is preached?

August 18th Acts 16:11-34 "Salvation comes to Philippi"

When somebody becomes a Christian and joins the Church, how quickly should we accept them? Should we make them go through training before accepting them as full members?

How real is the occult? Could the slave girl really have been possessed by a demon? Or is this just a primitive superstition?

How would we feel if beaten and imprisoned for our faith? Would we sing hymns?

In the middle of the night, after an earthquake, the jailer is terrified and asks "What must I do to be saved?" Paul gives one of the greatest summaries of the Gospel - "Believe in the Lord Jesus and you will be saved - you and your household". Do we want to be saved? From what?

Pause to reflect:

Going deeper with Sunday sermon passages

Thoughts before the sermon

August 25th Acts 17:1-15 "The Gospel in Thessalonica and Berea"

Greece was the country where democracy and open debating were first given great importance. How important is it that we are able to defend our faith when challenged? What is the importance of our statement of Faith (e.g. The Apostles' Creed)

The Christians in Berea examined the scriptures daily to see if what Paul said was true. Do we examine the scriptures daily?

When we open a Bible, what are we looking for?

How important is Bible Study to you?

ROADS FOR PRAYER

4th August

Saltersford Rise

Rolt Close

Millenium Way

Cameron Wharf

18th August

Albert Street

Alexandra Street

Arthur Street

Berkeley Street

11th August

The Crescent

End of Granville Terrace

Millers Gate

Hartley Drive

25th August

Chestnut Grove

Edward Street

Field Terrace

Field House Court



MAF to Purchase Two KODIAKS for Ministry Work in Indonesia

Some four years after MAF's first KODIAK airplane landed in Indonesia, the ministry is moving forward in faith to purchase two additional KODIAKS—one for service in Papua, Indonesia, and one, a floatplane, to be based at Palangkaraya, in Kalimantan.

"The Lord has provided MAF with an exciting chance to purchase two KODIAKs at substantially less than the current market price," said John Boyd, MAF president and CEO. "We had not budgeted for this expense in 2013, but when such a God-given opportunity presents itself, we have to say 'YES' and 'Thank you, Lord!'"

(continued on next page)

15 **MAF to Purchase Two KODIAKS for Ministry Work in Indonesia** *(continued)*

These two KODIAKs are part of a long-term strategic initiative to upgrade the aging MAF fleet. The two floatplanes currently serving in Palangkaraya, for example—small Cessna 185s—are 51 and 44 years old. Like many MAF airplanes, they burn aviation gasoline (avgas), which has become expensive and difficult to obtain—the ministry sometimes pays \$15 per gallon or more for fuel.

MAF KODIAK delivers cargo

The KODIAK can carry more cargo and passengers than a Cessna 206 while using the same remote landing sites, making it an excellent aircraft for the mountain and river areas of Indonesia.

The KODIAK burns jet fuel, which is much less costly and more readily available than avgas. This remarkable aircraft was designed specifically to meet the challenges of missionary aviation. It can travel longer distances than a Cessna 185 or 206 and carry more cargo while using the same challenging landing sites. And these two KODIAKs are desperately needed in Indonesia.

MAF KODIAK medical evacuation

"Wednesday afternoon we got a call for a double medical evacuation flight from Long Nawang," said MAF pilot Dave Forney. "A truck went over the edge of the mountain road and rolled about 75 feet to the bottom of the ravine. They were fortunate to be alive."

Two badly injured men and their family members boarded the Kalimantan program's KODIAK—the patients on blankets, strapped to the floor. A little over an hour later they were receiving life-saving treatment in the city of Tarakan.

"This would have been impossible with the Cessna 206," said Forney, "because the 206 isn't capable of carrying that much weight from Long Nawang, or that many people. But the KODIAK can handle it."

Airplanes are costly. MAF must now raise some \$3.5 million to pay for the KODIAKs and their journeys to Indonesia. Over the next few months MAF will be taking the KODIAK on the road so that friends of the ministry will have a chance to see this remarkable aircraft for themselves. Please be in prayer about how you might be part of this Kingdom-building project.

"Scripture says that with faith as small as a mustard seed, nothing is impossible—even mountains will move," said Boyd. "We are relying on the Lord, working through His people, to move this mountain!"

To learn how you can help send these two KODIAKs to Indonesia, visit www.maf.org/kodiak.

REGISTERS AND ROTAS

FUNERAL

17th June Beryl Humphries Age 76

BAPTISM

23rd June Thomas Dougie Higgins

SIDESPERSIONS ROTA

AM

4th Aug	D. Davies	K. Thompson
	G. Lugg	K. Woodward
11th Aug	D. Wilson	V. Ledward
	D. Pickles	P. Roberts
18th Aug	C. Wilding	K. McKnight
	D. Shemilt	J. Abrahams
25th Aug	P. Hipkiss	K. Woodward
	G. Holden	K. Thompson



FLOWER ROTA

4th August	Mrs A. Brandon
11th August	Mrs B. Boote
18th August	Miss C. Wilding
25th August	Mrs C. Stone



Christ Church on the Internet

Parish website	www.christchurchstone.org
Parish office email	office@christchurchstone.org
Magazine contributions	christchurch_mag@yahoo.co.uk

Deanery Synod Reps Mrs S Hallam, Mr R. Brandon, Mr D. Rowlands
P.C.C. Members Mrs I. Gassor, Mr G. Donaldson
Mrs K. Latham, Mr P. Mason, Mrs D. Hazlehurst
Mrs A. Burton, Mrs M. Hillman,
Mr K. Reynolds, Mrs E. Woodhead
Mrs S. Sanders

Secretary Shelagh Sanders
Treasurer Kevin Reynolds 850135
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).