

Christ Church and People

Parish Magazine of
Christ Church Stone

40p



February 2014

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 page 18 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
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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 MAEd	354047
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Christ Church



and People

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

Cover Picture:-

Stonefield Square

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 2014

Sat	1	8:30am	Prayer meeting followed by breakfast
Sun	2	9:15am 4:00pm 6:00pm	Communion 2 Kings 17:17-23 "Israel given the heave-ho!" Families at 4 - "The Singer" 9 a Day - "Joy"
Mon	3	6:30pm	Breathe yrs 5-8
Tue	4	9:30am 10:00am 12:30pm 7:00pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before midweek service: service at 10:30am Seekers Club Youth Club yrs 9-13
Wed	5	6:00pm	KingZone yrs 2-4
Thu	6	1:20pm	Christ Church First School assembly
Fri	7		
Sat	8		
Sun	9	9:15am 6:00pm	Morning Prayer 2 Kings 21:1-28 "Judah's king did evil" 9 a Day - "Peace"
Mon	10	6:30pm	Breathe yrs 5-8
Tue	11	9:30am 10:00am 12:30pm 1:10pm 7:00pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before midweek service: service at 10:30am Seekers Club Alleyne's assembly Youth Club yrs 9-13
Wed	12	1:10pm 6:00pm	Alleyne's assembly KingZone years 2-4
Thu	13	1:10pm 1:20pm 7:30pm	Alleyne's assembly Christ Church Academy assembly Stone Deanery Synod
Fri	14	1:10pm	Alleyne's assembly
Sat	15		

Fairtrade goods will be on sale after the service on February 23rd

Sun	16	9:15am 4:00pm 6:00pm	Communion. Daniel 1 “Daniel in exile” Families at 4 - “The captain of the storm” 9 a Day - “Patience”
Mon	17		
Tue	18	10:00am	Coffee before midweek service; service at 10:30am
Wed	19		
Thu	20		
Fri	21		
Sat	22		
Sun	23	9:15am 6:00pm	Family service. Ezra 1 “The return home” 9 a Day - “Kindness”
Mon	24	6:30pm	Breathe yrs 5-8
Tue	25	9:30am 10:00am 12:30pm 7:00pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before midweek service; service at 10:30am Seekers Club Youth Club yrs 9-13
Wed	26	6:00pm	KingZone yrs 2-4
Thu	27	1:20pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	28		
Sat	1	8:30am 7:00pm	Prayer meeting followed by breakfast Phil & Arthur’s Quiz Night

A Passion For Life

Are you a passionate person? The idea covers all sorts of things from romance to, dare I say it, supporting your favourite football team.

Passions are stirred during February in preparation for St Valentine's Day. It's a day when the least expected can suddenly happen. Romantics declare their love to their sweethearts over a candlelit meal or memorable day out.

We also talk about being 'passionate' when it comes to sport, something essential for the competitor, as it shows what truly matters to us. It's necessary in terms of our motivation to get on and do things, rather than apathy that will result in not caring. Passion doesn't guarantee success, but it is a key to commitment and investment of energy in the goal ahead.

During the run up to Easter a number of churches across the country will hold events with the tag line '*A Passion for Life*'. These events aim to spread the news of Jesus' passion for the life of the world. The Lord Jesus was sent into the world to rescue it from sin, death and hell. Jesus had a passionate love for the world and so he was committed to the plan of rescue no matter what the personal cost.

In the recent floods and other disasters it is the heroic individuals who have gone out of their way in order to help others that impress us. Their actions so often cost them a great deal personally in facing danger. They leave the people rescued humbled and exhilarated, but also the story continues to inspire us who learn of their selfless actions.

The Lord Jesus faced the greatest threat: '*who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God*' (Heb 12v2b). Jesus faced this death in order to rescue us to lead a different life in relationship with the Father. When we have been rescued it is humbling, exhilarating and inspiring! Christ's passion for your life involved great personal suffering; it involved him laying down his life for you. That's how passionate he was about you! Look out for the events we are holding and find out more.

Paul Kingman



A love that doesn't disappoint!

Fourteen years ago I took advantage of a buy 2 get 1 free offer on Valentines cards. I was with a friend who couldn't decide which card to get his girlfriend. Bored, I started thumbing through the selection and as I did an idea began to develop! Selecting a range of cards, I gathered up 9 with a view to having some fun!

Magazines were cut up, my writing was disguised and friends in different parts of the country were contacted (to aid confusion with a different postal mark!) After 2 busy evenings, I sat back feeling rather pleased with my efforts!

I was fortunate in that I choose some very forgiving and gracious victims! They soon got over their quickened heart rates and thrill of a secret admirer and were all, with perhaps one exception, most disappointed to discover that I was the culprit!

The game of love is troublesome enough without unintentional pranksters getting involved! Deep down all of us want to be valued and appreciated – loved for who we are and the thought that someone might be willing to is exhilarating. But isn't it true that so often we end up disappointed? I was struck recently by W.H Auden's poem *Stop all the Clocks* and the line *I thought that love would last forever: I was wrong*.

Many of us have experienced the trauma of either broken relationships or the death of someone we've loved. The painful reality is that, as Auden indicates, love doesn't last forever. People are both fickle and mortal. God on the other hand is constant and immortal. While people will always let us down one way or another, the Bible teaches us that *God is love* (1 John 4:8) and that *Jesus is the image of the invisible God* (Colossians 1:15). The implication of this is that in Jesus we see love personified.

The Apostle Paul writes in Romans 5: *Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

Jesus loves us so much that he willingly died to take the punishment our sin deserves. It's a love that loves us for who we are not what we are. So however many Valentines' cards you do or don't receive, trying looking to Jesus. He's not one to disappoint!

Andy

An Evening with Phil and Arthur

Saturday 1st 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 quiz

Refreshments

Proceeds to the Church general fund

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

Families @4

Families@4 is a twice monthly Sunday afternoon service in Christ Church Centre with cake, craft, stories and songs and most of all lots of fun! Starting at 4pm and finishing by 5pm, we are currently working our way through **the Jesus Storybook Bible** which shows how every story in the Bible whispers Jesus' name! This term we'll continue to see how Jesus fulfils the Old Testament whisperings and prophecies about God's desire to rescue his people!

The dates for this term are:

- | | |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 2 Feb – | <i>The Singer</i> |
| 16 Feb – | <i>The Captain of the Storm</i> |
| 2 Mar – | <i>Filled full!</i> |
| 16 Mar – | <i>Treasure hunt!</i> |
| 6 April – | <i>The friend of little children</i> |

We love welcoming new comers so we do hope you can join us!

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

As I write, feedback is beginning to come in indicating, once again, the resounding success of Stone's Advent Windows. With a record 20 partnerships between shops and business and schools and organisations, it was wonderful to see something of the Christmas story displayed up and down the High Street. The weather throughout December was a real answer to prayer with only 3 of the 24 openings affected by rain and as a result record numbers gathered at the openings with as many as 50 in attendance on several occasions!

Each opening was accompanied by a hearty rendition of the carol depicted and these could often be heard some distance away! Then, on Christmas Eve many of us had great fun visiting all but 2 of the windows as we crawled and carol-sang our way up the High Street and through the calendar! We arrived perfectly on time for Pete Mason to open the final window at Christ Church, after which over 100 people crammed into the Centre for mince-pies and refreshments.

The effort that went into the displays was incredible and there is simply not enough room here to express the thanks and gratitude we have to those who gave up so much time or window space! It was a wonderful community event and it was great to see so many people getting involved. A big thank you must go to the team who worked so tirelessly behind the scenes making sure that everything ran so smoothly and efficiently. Finally, all that remains to be said is that Advent Windows 2014 will focus on the 100th anniversary of the Christmas Day Truce in WW1, so any thoughts, ideas or willing volunteers would be gratefully received!

Andy

Fundraising for Stone Outward Division Guides to Mombasa in October

Catherine Abrahams is raising money for her trip to Mombasa, where she will be helping a project in Kididima that will see the building of a toilet block, community hall, health centre and playground. Help her by dining with the Abrahams family at their house or at The Crown of India. For evening meals Catherine suggests you might pay £15, for Strawberry Teas £2 - but you are welcome to make a larger contribution.

Speak to Catherine or Jacqueline for details

Thank you!!

I find it hard to express all that I think and feel surrounding the recent death of my dear father Jack. The love, warmth and friendship I have received from the people of Christ Church has been incredible and overwhelming! It has been so comforting and gratifying to know that so many people held Jack in such great esteem and loved him as I do.

The funeral service was extremely supportive to me and I do thank all the people involved which includes, help with music, singing, readings, flowers, catering, the printing of service sheets, the organisation in the church, and of course all Paul's ministrations. From the bottom of my heart I thank all who attended the service and "banquet" and just as importantly all who held me and my family in their thoughts and prayers. It has all been a truly uplifting time and the Lord's presence has been truly felt. Thank you everyone,

Barbara Sutcliffe

Jack Sutcliffe

Jack was a faithful member of Christ Church and will always be remembered for his wonderful smile, his willingness to embrace change and his thoughtfulness. Even at the age of 97 he was still growing his plants and raising money for his previous church family and for Jigsaw Kids Ministry. At the service of the celebration of his life we were told that he had raised thousands of pounds over the past few years. Although his health wasn't so good when approaching his 98th year he was still browsing through his seed catalogues deciding what to grow in the coming year, a remarkable man.

You are now in God's keeping Jack but we have you in our hearts.

Marylyn

Christingle Service 21st Dec. 2013

A very busy time as we made over 70 Oranges into Christingles, the children and parents finding out what each symbol represented.

A wonderful choice of crafts were set out for the children and some parents! once again thanks to Estella.

It was a very busy time and a great atmosphere, with I am pleased to say, families from our Toddler group 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 Kieran.

Afterwards the children brought their Christingles to the front, they were lit, we then 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 collected .£230-95p. Oulton First School also took a candle home and collected £146-36p. Christ Church with the Toddler Group collected £84-12p. So an amazing £461-43p 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.

Can I thank every one personally for their help and time which was so generously given, for giving the children a lovely time and helping to support UK children who are disadvantaged.

Sandra Morray, Children's Society Secretary

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

The P.C.C. met on 20th November 2012 and the following matters were discussed:

- A formal application is being finalised for Diocesan approval of the proposed church heating.
- It is proposed that Tim and Kate Lee will be visiting us in January
- It was reported that the cover on the old boiler house has been pulled up a few times. It was agreed that measures should be taken, urgently, to provide a sturdy, secure cover.
- Mr McKnight report that the Youth Group is growing in number with some challenging youngsters becoming more responsive to the rules. Breathe and Kingzone are also going well.
- The Light party was well attended and a great success
- It was reported that the Bereavement Service was well attended with many people saying how they appreciated the service.

The next P.C.C meeting is on Monday 3rd March 2014 at 7.30pm.

Keeping up with *The Story* in 2014

The Sunday sermons continue to tackle various chapters illustrative of what is being covered in in '*The Story*'. This book is written like a novel with various Bible passages and summaries of events to help us grasp the big picture or the the story of salvation – God's dealings with humanity from Genesis to Revelation.

If you've not started, or are lagging behind, then join in with the following schedule below. Happy reading!

Sunday	Book Chapter
Feb 2 nd	16 The beginning of the end
Feb 9 th	17 The kingdom's fall
Feb 16 th	18 Daniel in exile
Feb 23 rd	19 The return home

Jigsaw Snippets

On 8th November one of the most powerful storms on record struck the Philippines leaving millions of people without a home. Jigsaw asked for prayer on how they could be used to help with the typhoon relief. Two of Jigsaw's staff, Gemma and Mary Rose, had presumed their families (who lived in the worst-affected areas) were dead, but miraculously they have recently heard that although they have lost everything, they have been found alive! However, it is estimated that over 50,000 people lost their lives.

Children's play area in Manila airbase

God led Jigsaw through it's "Viva Network" connections to establish a children's play area in Manila's air base for children being airlifted out of the worst-hit areas. Our social workers described how, at the arrival area in the air base, Jigsaw had set up a small play area with toys, cushions and soft toys. As children and families arrived at the air base the children had chance to play while they were being processed through the system. Jeannette said that the children who came were very traumatised and just sat with the staff and cuddled the soft toys. After a while the children would slowly start to share their horrendous stories and then gradually some would begin to play. The children stayed in the play area for an hour or two before being moved on to UNICEF and other organisations for re-location. A few hours comfort may seem so little in such trauma but we believe it was an important time for many children who were welcomed. The work was very difficult for the staff but we praise God for using Jigsaw in this way.

Trauma counselling in Tacloban

Jigsaw is also part of the "Viva Network" counselling initiative. A few days ago our social worker Jeannette flew on an air force C130 flight to Tacloban, the very centre of the typhoon destruction. The team she is with will be there for a week meeting with pastors and churches to plan and begin the setting-up of child trauma counselling units. This will be followed up with further visits and training of local church members and community volunteers in counselling. Please pray for Jeannette and the team for strength, wisdom and peace.

Vans and emergency supplies

Over recent weeks Jigsaw's amazing vans (which never stop moving for God's work) have been part of a huge combined operation to help

(continued on next page)

collect and take relief to the airbases and docks. Jigsaw staff and volunteers from the local community were also part of a national effort to pack relief supplies.

10,000 Hugs

10,000 Hugs is an initiative to collect soft toys for child trauma counselling. It may not seem much but it aims to gather new and good condition soft toys to give to children who have lost their families, so they have something to hold and cuddle through their suffering. Jigsaw and Lendehl's church have been collecting money and soft toys to be sent to the worst-affected areas for children who have lost their families.

A new base in the Visayas area

For a number of months Jigsaw has been praying for a place from which to operate in the largest slum area in Visayas Avenue called Metro Heights. Just last month Jigsaw was led to a small community church building "right in the heart" of the slum area. Lendehl met with the lady who is responsible for its use. She was overjoyed as she said that they had been praying for some people to use the church for the community. Now all Visayas Jigsaw activities (kids clubs, SEN, school homework clubs, literacy) and much more have started in this church. This came just in time for our street children's Christmas parties. The staff and children are so happy and encouraged by God's provision which not only makes the ministry more sustainable but also forges new partnerships.

The Forestry community

In the Forestry community (a very difficult place of poverty and drugs), Jigsaw is building stronger and stronger relationships. Lendehl has met with the community leaders who are suggesting that we use an open space in the centre of the community for our ministry. It maybe that in the future we erect some roofing over this area so it can be used in all weathers. This is an exciting vision and we seek God's guidance for our work in this community.

Friends of Jigsaw support groups

We praise God for his continued growth of Jigsaw supporters which we call "Friends of Jigsaw". Huddersfield and St Ives groups had their first meetings recently and although they were small groups the prayer was powerful. We are excited that groups in Ulverston, Stone and Stafford are planning to start in 2014.

Tim Lee

A series of presentations for the John Young Foundation by Roger Vaughan

For over forty years I have been involved in the Christian Ministry of Healing. These four talks attempt to deal with some of the issues which are related to this ministry which have had to be faced from time to time.

The sessions take place at Christ Church Centre, Stone. Two have already taken place in January but two more are scheduled for February

Wednesday February 12th at 2.30pm-“All will be well” - healing and death.

This is a "head on" look at prevailing attitudes to death, and the way we use "semi-Christian" ideas in popular culture to cover up the enigma of death. An attempt to give simplistic answers has to be avoided. However, we all need to face the challenge of our death and set it against the background of our Christian Faith.

Feb 26th 2:30pm-“Breaking the mould” – Healing false thought patterns.

In today's noisy, bustling and frantic world we face some serious questions. How free are we to live the life God intended for us? How often do we allow our lives to be moulded by the pressures of society, and our hidden desire for approval? Romans 12:2 would make a very good alternative title for this presentation!

Roger M Vaughan

Cost £7.50 per session

To book, contact the John Young Foundation

Tel 01785 258428

Email jyf@route56.co.uk

Eat out with the Abrahams And contribute towards the Guides Kididima Project *(see page 7)*

The Abrahams family is offering the opportunity to eat out with them, in their house or at The Crown of India. Your financial contributions will help a poor community in Mombasa. Ask Catherine or Jacqueline for details.

“The Church of England has changed radically over the last forty years. We remain committed to offering a lively Christian presence in every community, but the way we are doing this is changing.

In recent years our Plain Speaking process has helped Lichfield Diocese plan for sustainable growth. We're facing the long-term trend of ageing congregations and falling numbers although at the last count, it seems we are seeing a hint of growth. But one aspect that isn't so clear from the average pew is the demographic; one that affects the whole of the Church of England. And specifically in this diocese, a third of all our clergy are predicted to retire in the next ten years. Replacing them has traditionally been the responsibility of a few lively churches with the help of the DDO – the Diocesan Director of Ordinands”.

Revd David Newsome, Diocesan Director of Ordinands:

“We want people who are passionate for the gospel, live Christ-centred lives, are people of prayer and leaders of mission in their communities.”

Bishop Jonathan:

“While the traditional priest-per-parish model has stretched us almost to breaking-point in some places, we've seen a surge in other forms of ministry. Non-stipendiary clergy have grown in large numbers – people who remain in secular employment have the calling to serve in their local churches as priests. And we have recruited some fabulous priests through this route who remain thoroughly grounded in normal life. Then later this year we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the ordination of the first women priests. Resistance was often strong in the early years, but many congregations who were initially uncomfortable with the idea are now delighted with the women who lead them. Over 40% of our new clergy in the coming year will be women and many of us are looking forward to them taking more senior positions in the diocese. Most parishes are also able to call on Lay Readers, who are our Lay Theologians: people without the vocation to be a priest but who teach congregations from scripture, lead them in worship and have a distinctive vocation to lay ministry. We also have many Lay Ministers: people who have received training and have a specific ministry.”

Dr Lindsey Hall, Director of Lay Development:

“As disciples we're all participating in ministry and for lots of people that is in their workplace or their own community or amongst their family and friends. But some people also have a specific call to Lay Ministry on behalf of the church. We offer all kinds of resources to support a wide range of ministries. And the two formal courses we offer are for Authorised Lay Ministry and Lay Reader ministry.”

Bishop Jonathan:

“And the great news is that some parishes are encouraging many to come forward... But what about the Holy Communion, our central act of worship?”

15 This is the rub for some parishes, that sometimes we overlook the key need for a priest to take the weekly Holy Communion service. I have sometimes described the French Roman Catholic support in the 1970's for ADAPs, or "Assemblée Dominicale en l'Absence de Prêtre", that is, Sunday worship in the absence of a priest. This was basically a trained and authorized lay worship team who would take responsibility for the organising of Sunday service on those Sundays when the priest was in another church. Until such time as we have more priests, be they full-time if the generosity of congregations allows, or part-time as the number of non-stipendiary or ordained local ministers increases, we will want to use specially ordained lay teams like that of the ADAPs. And this isn't a terrible situation to be in. The challenge of keeping our worship fresh, alive and relevant is one that all traditions within the Church of England have to face. We share in a wonderfully diverse diocese. We have extremely sparsely populated moorlands in Staffordshire and where Shropshire borders with Wales. And we have some very densely populated urban and suburban areas. We have a smattering of wealthy people in our congregations and many professional people with comfortable incomes. But as our Practising Generosity event showed last year, 25% of our parishes have people belonging to the poorest 10% of British society."

Julie Jones, Lichfield Diocese' Chief Executive Officer:

"About three-quarters of the way through, of course, we ran out of money because we'd given everything that there was to give. And yet there were people there wanting other people to benefit too. And so we saw the poorest of parishes giving back a tenth of what they'd been allocated to enable others to have their projects take off too. This incredible generosity was heart-warming and almost emotional to see but there is other generosity that I and everyone on Bishop's Staff would want to thank you for. The amount of money that has come in this year is nearly ninety six percent of the parish share requested and for that we are so grateful. But just think how much more we as a diocese and you as parishes could achieve if we were able to just give that little bit more, go the extra mile, like they did at the PB day, so we can see more effective mission and ministry.

Bishop Jonathan:

"Money was one of Jesus favourite topics even though I and many clergy are less comfortable asking for it. But how we use it is a measure of our commitment to Jesus and to his Church. Jesus encourages us all to invest in his work: 'Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over will be put into your lap.' This month, the Bishop's Staff Team is continuing to look closely at how we grow as a church: none of us wants to manage a process of decline. God created a church in which every member, including you is able to grow in faith through the opportunity to explore and offer themselves to any ministry you are called to. We have such good news to share – of hope for the future, of Christ's love and grace for each of us. May God bless you in 2014"

REGISTERS AND ROTAS

FUNERALS

19th December	Freda Lowe	Age 82
9th January	Jack Sutcliffe	Age 98

SIDESPERSIONS ROTA

AM

2nd February	D. Pickles	D. Shemilt
	J. Rowlands	C. Wilding
9th February	K. Woodward	K. McKnight
	P. Roberts	G. Holden
16th February	D. Davies	D. Wilson
	V. Ledward	K. Thompson
23rd February	P. Hipkiss	J. Abrahams
	C. Wilding	D. Pickles



FLOWER ROTA

2nd February	Mrs W. Carroll
9th February	Mrs J. Booth
16th February	Mrs P. Roberts
23rd February	Mrs M. Hillman

ROADS FOR PRAYER

2nd February
 Northesk Street
 Radford Close
 Radford Street
 Station Road

16th February
 Airdale Grove
 Airdale Road
 Airdale Spinney
 Cross Street
 Lotus Court

9th February
 The Avenue
 Trent Road
 Tunley Street
 Trinity Drive

23rd February
 Nicholls Lane
 Old Road
 Old Road Close
 Oulton Cross



17 ‘9-A-Day: *Becoming like Jesus*’ – what is it about?

When it comes to physical health we are urged to eat ‘Five-a-Day’ fruit and/or vegetables! Nothing could be better for our spiritual health and growth than to digest the meaning of the fruit of the Spirit, ‘Nine-a-Day’. This is the name of a short series we are covering in Sundays at six. Read on to discover why!

The Bible gives us nine qualities described as ‘*the fruit of the Spirit*’ - love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness and self-control (Galatians 5v22-23). Together they make a rounded cluster of qualities that will become more and more evident in a growing Christian’s life and character. So, Biblical maturity is not just a matter of growing up, but growing more in Christ and growing more like Christ: ‘*We must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ*’ (Eph. 4:15, NRSV). As we grow more mature in the faith, we do in fact grow more like Jesus. Such maturity and Christlikeness are the work of the Holy Spirit as he bears fruit in our lives.

If we think about a similar process where a clay pot is being formed on a wheel we notice that it goes through a shaping and even a reshaping process. The potter is trying to bring out something potential and make it actual. Truly Christian spiritual formation will inevitably take on particular distinctives that will allow the disciple to travel in the ways of Jesus Christ as revealed in the Bible. He is our potential that the Spirit wishes to make actual.

Jesus said: “*Come to me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from Me*” (Matthew 11:28). Jesus becomes our source of rest as well as the One to whom we are yoked – our Teacher. That means that Christian spiritual formation will be Christ-centred. We develop a relationship with Christ; we seek to imitate His character; and listen to His Spirit and His Word. We practise the spiritual disciplines like Bible study because we want to be trained in the ways of Christ.

Conformity to the ways of Christ still comes through the long hard process of daily obedience to the Christ we meet in the Bible as well as in life. It’s about a lifetime of permitting the grace of the Spirit to reshape us. When we become more enamoured by the experience than by pursuing the God of the experience, we are no longer walking in the ways of truly Christian spiritual formation.

So, let’s together aim to grow to become more like Jesus. *Paul Kingman*

Groups and Activities

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 Mrs S. Sanders, Mr P. Mason, Mrs D. Hazlehurst Mrs A. Burton, Mrs M. Hillman, Mr K. Reynolds, Mrs E. Woodhead	
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 (Mon 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 on the Internet

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Magazine contributions	christchurch_mag@yahoo.co.uk