

Christ Church and People

Parish Magazine of
Christ Church Stone

40p



February 2015

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 17 for details)

THE PARISH TEAM

Vicar	Paul Kingman The Vicarage, Bromfield Court	812669
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 Helen Bowes David Rowlands Michael Thompson Cecilia Wilding	815775 812317 816713 813712 817987
Music Co-ordinators	Pete Mason Sue Kingman	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: Mr N. Chesters	354125
Christ Church Academy, Old Road Principal: Mr C. Wright MAEd	354047

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Christ Church



and People

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

Cover Picture:-

Oulton 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

February Diary

Sun	1st	9:15am 6:00pm	Communion Mark 8:27-38 "The necessity of the cross" Protestant Revolt (5)
Mon	2nd	9:30am 6:30pm	Christ Church First School assembly Breathe yrs 5-8
Tue	3rd	10:00am 12:30pm 7:00pm	Coffee before midweek service; service at 10:30 Seekers Club Youth Club yrs 9-13
Wed	4th	2:30pm 6:00pm	Healing gifts of the Spirit (see page 13) KingZone yrs 2-4
Thu	5th	1:20pm 6:00pm	Christ Church Academy assembly Christ Church First School governors' meeting
Fri	6th		
Sat	7th	8:30am	Prayer meeting followed by breakfast
Sun	8th	9:15am 6:00pm	Morning Prayer. Mark 12:28-34 "The necessity of love" Protestant revolt (6)
Mon	9th	9:30am 6:30pm	Christ Church First School assembly Breathe yrs 5-8
Tue	10th	10:00am 12:30pm 3:00pm 7:00pm	Coffee before midweek service; service at 10:30 Seekers Club Autumn House Youth Club yrs 9-13
Wed	11th	2:30pm 6:00pm	Healing church (see page 13) KingZone yrs 2-4
Thu	12th	1:20pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	13th		
Sat	14th		
Sun	15th	9:15am 6:00pm	Communion Matthew 26:1-16 "The plot against Jesus" Protestant Revolt (7)

Mon	16th		
Tue	17th	10:00am	Coffee before midweek service; service at 10:30
Wed	18th	7:30pm	Ash Wednesday Communion
Thu	19th		
Fri	20th		
Sat	21st		Marriage of Giles Donaldson and Carrie Akers at Parkside Evangelical Church
Sun	22nd	9:15am 6:00pm	Family Service Matthew 26:17-30 "The Last Supper" Learn to explain the Gospel (1) Jesus - the Son of God
Mon	23rd	9:30am 6:00pm	Christ Church First School assembly Breathe yrs 2-4
Tue	24th	10:00am 12:30pm 1:00pm 7:00pm	Coffee before midweek service; service at 10:30 Seekers Club Fraternal Youth Club yrs 9-13
Wed	25th	6:00pm 7:30pm	KingZone yrs 2-4 Lent Course
Thu	26th	1:20pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	27th		
Sat	28th		

Fair Trade goods will be on sale after the service on 22nd January

True love...

A bouquet of flowers, a perfectly wrapped box of luxury chocolates, decorative red hearts and a romantic meal. Isn't that what Valentine's day is all about, right? Well, maybe not. So far as the history goes there is little that is certain. The day probably replaced a Roman fertility festival in the 5th century. Behind it is a saint called 'Valentine' but a choice of various characters all make convincing bids for the title.

A well-known legend concerns a 3rd Century Roman priest. While Emperor Claudius II reigned he decided that unmarried men made better soldiers and so he outlawed marriage for single men in his service. In secret Valentine performed marriages between young men and women and led to his popularity. But this was his undoing and as a result he was executed. Another legend suggests that Valentine fell in love with a girl who visited him while in prison. Before his execution he wrote a letter, signed "from your Valentine". The expression was used subsequently in a romantic way.

If we want to look at the nature of true love, we have to dig deeper than the romantic cards and gifts. Even though Valentine's Day is highly commercialized, the one thing it gets right is to remind us that love *does* something – to love is to act, or it is not love at all.

The practical nature of love is seen from the words of a passage often used at weddings, some of which reads: *'Love is patient, love is kind...it always protects, always trust, always hopes, always perseveres'* (I Cor 13v4,7). The way it describes love is self-giving and self-sacrificial, this is the nature of God's love for us and to be shown towards others.

A similar theme is true when we look at what a love for God involves. It too is self-giving and self-sacrificial in terms of a devotion to Jesus, who said: *'If you love me, you will obey what I command'* (John 14v15). *'You are my friends if you do what I command'* (John 15v14).

The challenge is to ask: how do I express my love for Jesus Christ? Does it involve doing anything? Should it involve changing so that I readily learn to follow his way? Am I prepared to sacrifice something in the service of the one who voluntarily gave himself up for me?

Let's explore together this Lent what a true love for the Lord Jesus means.

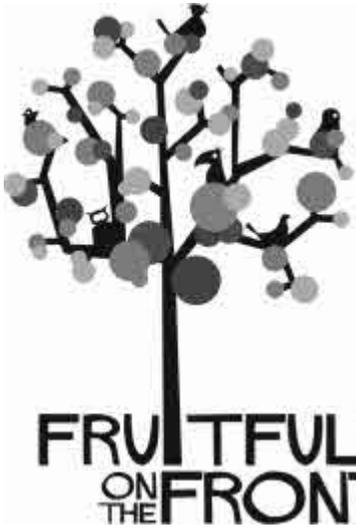
Paul Kingman



A Lent Course for 2015

What does fruitfulness look like in our everyday lives? How can we serve God in the many, many hours of our waking time?

Whether we are housewives or students, factory workers, sales assistants or retired, God can use us in many different ways. That's not by adding new things to our much-to-do-about everything lists. Rather, it is about what happens when we let God show us how he wants us to respond in



the places we find ourselves day by day - our 'frontlines', wherever they are. We don't need a high position, a university degree, or lots of money to have a significant impact for the Lord. What if, for now at least, the people God wants us to love and serve are the people we meet day-to-day?

encounter on their frontlines. They are testimonies that God still works powerfully, wondrously, and mysteriously through his people today. Will you add your testimony as you become part of this great calling to be fruitful in our daily lives?

Join in the course to be encouraged in your discipleship. We hope to run a course in both Oulton and at Christ Church, Stone (more information to follow).

Paul Kingman

I note that some whom I greatly love and esteem, who are, in my judgement, among the very choicest of God's people, nevertheless, travel most of the way to heaven by night. *Charles Spurgeon*

Believers, look up - take courage. The angels are nearer than you think.

Billy Graham

The best thing about February

The best thing about February is that it is a short month! It is dark and chilly and has no 'highlights' like Christmas to liven it up. Yet, under the earth things are starting to stir and in the fields there are signs of new life and the promise that warmer and brighter days are not so far away.

During 2015 I have the privilege of serving as President of the Staffordshire and Birmingham Agricultural Society which is based at the County Showground in Stafford. If you have never been to the County Show I would urge you to put May 27th or 28th in your diary now – it is interesting and brilliant fun for all the family whatever the weather is like! As well as all the livestock and competitions there are amazing demonstrations like sheep shearing and skilled blacksmiths replacing horse shoes and stalls selling all kinds of craft items.

For a 'city lad' like myself, involvement with the Society has been a real learning curve and I have nothing but admiration for the hard working farmers of this Diocese as they grapple with continuous uncertainties of the weather, milk prices and the challenges of bovine TB. All of this in an age when small farms are on the decline and the increase in larger organisations and the fewer market days means that farmers have less opportunity to meet for mutual encouragement.

Churches have a key role to play in rural matters and I get frustrated with some 'incomers' into our villages who do not seem interested in supporting their local parish church and who fail to engage with their new Community. It is indifference that has resulted in the loss of the village shop and pub and school and frankly will put at risk the future sustainability of many of our rural church buildings. The message is clear – use it or lose it! We must focus the resources that God has given us where there is opportunity for mission and growth. This is nothing new - read Matthew 10: 14!

The encouraging news is that despite all the challenges, many young people are still going to agricultural college and want to work in our rural areas. Many Young Farmers I meet are incredibly lively and upbeat and I admire both their enthusiasm and their commitment. The Young Farmers support and encourage one another and I warmly commend the local groups to any young person who is looking to make friends and try new activities - you do not have to be farming to join!

Continued on next page

It is essential that we find ways to keep the cost of housing in our rural communities realistic to enable these young people who WANT to engage to do so. Bringing young families back into our villages is essential if they are to have any future and their loss would be tragically detrimental to the life of this nation. I hope that this is one of the many areas about which we quiz our prospective MPs as we approach the coming General Election.

February brings new growth – it also offers the opportunity for new spiritual growth (Lent begins on Ash Wednesday – February 18th). Please pray for all who live and work in the rural parts of our Diocese and try to keep their needs in mind in the various discussions that will be taking place in our Lent Groups this year.

Geoff Annas, Bishop of Stafford

Rocksalt World Tour



The Band Rocksalt starts its World Tour in Christchurch Centre.

After a lull in performances for the past 23 years the Band members have been persuaded to do a Global Tour while they are still able!

Three members had disappeared from view in the last twenty years, but rumours of being at Her Majesty's Pleasure proved false.

With the musicians coming together from London, Wolverhampton, Stourbridge, Stone, Cambridge and Hungary this will be a "Not to be missed event" – unless you suffer from tinnitus.

More information in next month's magazine!

Pete

The National Memorial Arboretum is a place of reflection, remembrance and prayer, dedicated to those who have served, suffered or sacrificed for this country. To those who are remembered here, we owe a debt of unspeakable gratitude. This New Year is particularly significant, marking the end of one of the longest wars that our modern services have fought. There is a danger that the sacrifice and suffering of those caught up in war and disaster will slip from our minds. Each day brings its toll of bad news, of disasters inflicted on the innocent by war and disease.

In 2014 we saw so much of that in the Middle East, in north-east Nigeria, with the persecution of Christians and other minorities. And in the week before Christmas itself, there was the horrendous massacre of children in Pakistan.

There is so much suffering that at the New Year it is tempting to look inwards in despair. But we are not a country that turns our back on the suffering and the weak and the helpless.

In the week just before Christmas I was in Sierra Leone, very briefly. There I saw the result of British generosity, of aid poured in to support a country torn apart by Ebola, and the extraordinary dedication of British service personnel, working with charities, funded by our aid budget. I saw the profound heroism of local people dealing with something that none of us understand which makes lethal the basic instincts of touch and embrace for the sick and the dying.

The week before that I was in the South Sudan, and saw again the open-handedness of the British people who have contributed to a programme that has saved one and a half million sufferers, war-battered, from starvation.

We are a country formed in a Christian heritage, which calls us to sacrifice and self-giving, to open-handedness and hospitality.

In the last year, travelling all over the world to see Anglican Churches and to meet their leaders, with my wife, we've seen the impact of this country both historically and today.

(continued on page 9)

New Year message *(cont)*

When we are at our best, living out the generosity of Jesus Christ, as that has formed itself in our national character; when we turn outwards and use our best resources to change this world in which we live; we see what a wonderful heritage we have - and the hope we can bring to the poorest, and those with the greatest suffering on the face of our planet.

So what do we hope for in 2015? My hope and prayer is that we are the kind of country that goes on looking outwards; that is full of a generous spirit. Because when we're generous we find joy and others find comfort and hope.

So may that joy and comfort be yours in this coming year.

Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury

P.C.C. News

The P.C.C. met on 19th November 2014 and the following matters were reported:

- Thanks was expressed to Mr Holden and the team involved in producing the wonderful table church frontals
- The Lent course for 2015 will be entitled "Fruitfulness on the Front Line"
- Feedback from people attending the bereavement service stated that they felt welcomed and the service was supportive
- We urgently need more people available for opening and closing the Centre
- A note has been received from Katrina thanking the congregation for the "Thinking of you" card and prayers.

The PCC will be meeting on 21st January 2015

An Evening with Phil and Arthur

Saturday 7th March at 7 pm in the Centre

Something for Everyone



Sale of plants and pots of spring bulbs

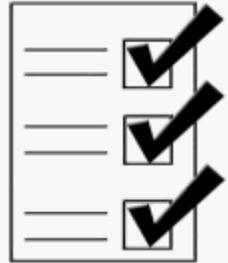
Have a guess at some games –
50p a go
with great prizes to be won

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



Rainfall in Stone during 2014

Total rainfall in Stone during 2014		32.30 inches
Wettest month-	January	5.10 inches
Next wettest-	May	4.05 inches
Driest month-	September	1.25 inches
Next driest-	March	1.55 inches

As recorded in Mount Crescent

Brian

Thanks from Simpetru Almasului

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I just want to give you thanks in the name of those 300 Children who received a Christmas present because of your love and generosity.

In Simpetru Alamsului Dinu and Margareta taught the children some Christmas Carols and organized a concert for the villagers. We rent the village hall and there the Children performed for approx. 60 people who were at the event. Was not a big crowd but we are learning for the future. The level of performance it was high and the people were pleased to be there. Presents were given to 25 children.

In Saldabagiu Dana Talos is making a huge sacrifice to keep the children's ministry up. She has a huge amount of money to return to a bank because she put herself as a guarantor in a bank for someone and that man won't return the money back to the bank and because of that Dana has to to pay the loan back to the bank. She is really desperate from financial point of view. Despite all of that she is going to do the children ministry in Saldabagiu. Praise God for her. I only can be amazed by her dedication. Presents were given to 35 children.

In Alamsu, presents were given to 50 children

In Tamasa, presents were given to 25 children

In Brusturi we do not have a permanent children ministry but there are a number of children who attend the church regularly. I wish we could find someone able and available to do a children ministry in Brusturi. Please pray for this need. Presents were given to 10 children.

First Baptist Church Zalau: we supported Christmas presents for 100 children.

Simleu Bethany Baptst Church: we supported the Christmas presents for 24 children.

Cosniciu de jos: we supported Christmas Presents for 13 children

Mierta: we support 11 Christmas presents for Mierta

Bedeciu & Dretea: we supported 9 Christmas presents for this two churches

Thank you very much dear Brothers and Sisters for all your support and help. I pray that our Lord Jesus Christ the Lord will bless you abundantly in 2015 and your entire life.

Christingle Service 20th Dec. 2014

About 70 Oranges were made into Christingles by the children and parents, the children finding out what each symbol represented. The crafts were great once again thanks to Estella.

It was a very busy time and a great atmosphere, with a few old friends arriving and joining in. This year it was lovely to see many young families. At 4.30pm we went into church where there was singing, prayers for the Children's Society followed by a talk involving the children lead by Helen, who had brought her own gigantic Christingle orange. The children brought their Christingles to the front and they were lit, the children behaving beautifully, sang – 'Silent Night', I found it very moving.

Afterwards we enjoyed refreshments a BIG thank you to the church family who provided and served them.

The children from Christ Church First School took a collecting candle home and raised £202-66p.

The children from Oulton First School also took a candle home and raised £109-50p.

Christ Church along with the Parents and Toddler group raised £93-00.

A grand total of £405-16p has been forwarded to the Children's Society for their work with homeless and disadvantaged children in the UK.

That is fantastic our children who have so much, have given to children they don't know, to help them this Christmas.

A huge THANK YOU to all who gave so generously.

*Sandra Morray
Children's Society Secretary*

Healing God

A series of one hour presentations given by
Revd Preb Roger M Vaughan
at

Christ Church Centre
Christ Church Way, Stone,
Staffordshire. ST15 8ZB

28th January

“Jesus the Healer”

4th February

“Healing gifts of the Spirit”

11th February

“Healing church”

Cost £7.50 per session

ALL LECTURES START AT 2.30 PM PROMPT

For more information and Booking Form, please refer to website:
www.johnyoungfoundation.org.uk

Or contact the Foundation at

The John Young Foundation
Registered Charity No. 1007037
Promoting Christian Healing
Suite 2A/2D 2nd Floor
The Whitehouse
3A Chapel Street
STAFFORD ST16 2BX

email: jyf@route56.co.uk
Telephone: 01785 258428

2014 was a good year for ministry because of the Lord's faithfulness and your continued support. We started the year with assurance that God still needed us here through the renewal of our permits and opportunities to serve our District teaching Parent –Child communication skills and Character education. We just completed two workshops with parents, youth and children to help reduce teenage pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections. It was great to see the response and the desire of both youth and parents to respond to their need to be friends with each other by putting God at the centre of their relationship. This is in sharp contrast to the traditional way parents like to relate to their children this side of the world. We are also discovering some pastors who have a passion for the children of this nation, especially Pastor Bagopi of House of Treasure Church who hosted one of the workshops.

When parents, pastors and teachers work together and involve children in the process, the sky is the limit to how much this country can change. This will give us the opportunity to bring into some schools and churches the good old "Life at the Crossroads" principles of Relational skills, Character Connection skills, Sex in perspective, Life skills and navigating the future skills, this time with parent involvement and bathed in prayer.

Two great moments that opened my eyes: one was to attend again the annual unashamed movement prayer walk across Gaborone city. Imagine over two thousand people of all ages and Christian denomination crying to God together about a city and nation. The second moment was the opportunity to attend the Village Development Committee annual general meeting and to be one of them in planning a workshop for the village between 4 and 5 December. The power of such a system for the village cannot be over emphasized.

As I sat listening to the three of our team facilitating at the parent-child communication workshops on teen pregnancy and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) though mostly in Setswana, I knew our work is almost done. As we met the Speaker of the National Assembly to introduce these young people and update her on the programme she has been part of from the beginning, I was able to confidently say for the first time that the programme would not die if we left the country.

(continued on next page)

OneHope international continues to bless Africa, and through Family Connections, Botswana. Our Southern African team ran a regional workshop in Johannesburg in September learning, praying and planning together to touch more lives with the transforming word of our Lord Jesus Christ and Character education through the books of hope and Our Family. This year we had 165,500 books to distribute. The new requirement to train before distribution proved to be slow but much better. We are praying that more pastors will allow their Sunday school teachers, family life coordinators, youth leaders to be trained to use the free materials. Our premarital preparation provides for us to take the new couple on holiday as follow up in their first year of marriage.

Our son Timothy is working hard with children. "I Owe You Jesus Christ" (IOUJC) is known in some areas with children on bicycles and T-shirts sharing Christ and literature. This is what he says: "I have been asking many children bible questions and they get a sweet for every right answer. The questions are from bible stories I know, and though the children may not know, it gives them an opportunity to learn. I have even chosen to do an action of a bible character which the kids/participants guess. I'm excited about how the children like this and want to know more of the things that happened in the bible. It also gives me the urge to read and know more."

In February Robinah and I went to Uganda for the first time together in 11 years. It was great to attend Hannah's graduation and pray her into a job that she is currently training for in Nairobi. Robinah went back to Uganda to represent the family on Joel's graduation that took place on 5th December. God is a prayer answering God. We are praying he too gets a job and lightens the load. Martha has one year to go. Elijah and Prisca are proving to be great parents to Samantha just like their own parents. Jonathan Junior is ready for Standard seven. For the first time he spent Christmas with family friends in Zambia. Thank you dear partners for allowing God to use you to educate our children as he promised us in Isaiah 54.

Thank you again for your love and support. Faithfully yours,
Jonathan and Robinah Beesigomwe & family

BEST WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR 2015

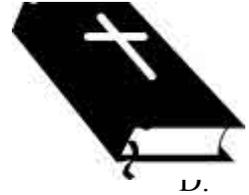
REGISTERS AND ROTAS

FUNERALS

10th December	Georgina Margaret Martin	Age 91
18th December	Ann Barnett	Age 75

SIDESPERSIONS ROTA

1st February	C. Wilding	J. Abrahams
	V. Ledward	K. Woodward
8th February	K. Thompson	J. Bowes
	D. Shemilt	D. Davies
15th February	D. Pickles	K. McKnight
	D. Wilson	G. Holden
22nd February	J. Rowlands	P. Hipkiss
	P. Roberts	P. Tunstall



FLOWER ROTA

1st February	Mrs W. Carroll
8th February	Mrs J. Booth
15th February	Flower Guild
22nd February	Lent

ROADS FOR PRAYER

1st February	8th February
Northesk Street	The Avenue
Radford Close	Trent Road
Radford Street	Tunley Street
Station Road	Trinity Drive
15th February	22nd February
Airdale Grove	Nicholls Lane
Airdale Road	Old Road
Airdale Spinney	Old Road Close
Cross Street	Oulton Road
Lotus Court	



Groups and Activities

Deanery Synod Reps	Mr R. Brandon, Mrs A. Brandon, Mrs H. Bowes	
P.C.C. Members	Mrs I. Gassor, Mr G. Donaldson, Mrs K. Latham Mrs S. Sanders, Mr P. Mason, Mr G. Holden 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
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 **Breathe** (years 5-8) Monday 6:30 pm

Youth Club (years 9-13) Tuesday 7:00 pm **Kingzone** (years 2-4) Wednesday 6:00 pm

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

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

Christ Church 10 years ago

Johnny Douglas, from “Youth for Christ” preached on 16th January.

We had an evening service every Sunday in January.

Children from Christ Church First School took part in “Light up a Life”, in support of the Douglas Macmillan Hospice. 1200 people gathered to share memories of loved ones. The children sang “I am a small part of the world” and “Starry Night”. Radio Stoke recorded the event.

The Christ Church magazine cost 30p each month.

Mothers’ Union sent £120 to “Send a cow”, towards the cost of a cow for a farmer in a poverty-stricken part of Africa.

Rebecca Williams had just arrived in Lahore and was learning Urdu. She went on to work among women in Northern Pakistan.

Barry and Arthur’s quiz evening was on Saturday 12th March. Tickets cost 50p. Proceeds went to the Clifford Project.

Nora Fox’s funeral (which took place late in 2004) was recorded in the magazine. She was 92 years old when she died.

Christ Church 130 years ago

The parish magazine “Home Words” was issued, after a gap of several years without a magazine. It cost a penny a month.

The vicar was Rev. Walter J. Thompson. Rev. Arthur Pearman was welcomed as curate on January 8th.

Restoration work on the church was completed in January and the church was re-opened on Saturday February 21st by the Bishop. The Archdeacon preached on Sunday February 22nd.

Services were instituted at 7:30 pm on Thursday evenings in the Stonefield Schoolroom.

A mens’ Bible class began on Tuesday February 3rd.

A new hymn-book was introduced, the “Hymnal Companion”

The magazine carried advertisements for “Wind Pills” (Good for ALL COMPLAINTS arising from a disordered state of the stomach, bowels or liver) and for “Clarke’s world-famed BLOOD MIXTURE” (warranted to cleanse the blood from all impurities. Marvellous for Scrofula, Scurvy, Sores, Skin and Blood diseases) “ 2/6d per bottle.