

Christ Church and People

30p



August

Parish Magazine of
Christ Church Stone

2007

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

THE PARISH TEAM

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--|--|
| Vicar | Paul Kingman The Vicarage, Bromfield Court | 812669 |
| Curate | Tim Vasby-Burnie, 1 Navigation Loop | |
| Parish Administrator | Clare Nash (Office) | 811990 |
| Electoral Roll Officer | Irene Gassor | 814871 |
| Parish Office | Christ Church Centre, Christ Church Way, Stone, Staffs ST15 8ZB Email christchurch.centre1@btinternet.com | |
| Youth Worker | Thomas Nash | 286551 |
| Deaconess (Retired) | Ann Butler | 818160 |
| Readers | David Bell John Butterworth Margaret Massey David Rowlands Michael Thompson Cecilia Wilding | 815775 817465 813403 816713 813712 817987 |
| Music Co-ordinators | Peter Mason Jeff Challinor | 815854 819665 |
| Wardens | Phil Tunstall David Rowlands | 817028 816713 |
| Deputy Wardens | Shirley Hallam, Arthur Foulkes | |
| Prayer Request List | Barbara Thornicroft | 818700 |

CHRIST CHURCH CENTRE

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------|
| Booking Secretary | Clare 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 C.E.(Aided) Middle School, Old Road

Head: C. Waghorn B.Ed(Hons),DPSE,ACP,FRSA 354047

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Christ Church



and People

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

Cover Story: Jerry Cooper drew lots of wonderful pictures for this magazine, all of them buildings in our parish. This month the picture is of Radford St.

Christ Church on the Internet

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Parish website | www.churches.lichfield.anglican.org/stone/stonecc |
| Parish office email | christchurch.centre1@btinternet.com |
| Magazine contributions | christchurch_mag@yahoo.co.uk |

August 2007

| | | | |
|-----|----|----------------------------|--|
| Wed | 1 | | |
| Thu | 2 | | |
| Fri | 3 | | |
| Sat | 4 | 8:30am 9:00am 2:00pm | Prayer meeting in church Breakfast in the Centre Wedding of Jay Birmingham and Miriam Bell |
| Sun | 5 | 9:15am 6:00pm | Communion: Sermon text Psalm 30 "From mourning to mirth" Evening Prayer at Oulton Church Genesis 27 "The Trickster" |
| Mon | 6 | | |
| Tue | 7 | 10:30am | Midweek service |
| Wed | 8 | | |
| Thu | 9 | | |
| Fri | 10 | | |
| Sat | 11 | | |
| Sun | 12 | 9:15am 6:00pm | Morning Prayer Psalm 31 "From anguish to assurance" Communion at Oulton Church Genesis 32 "Divine appointment" |
| Mon | 13 | | |
| Tue | 14 | 10:30am | Midweek servic |
| Wed | 15 | | |
| Thu | 16 | | |

Church Centre Bookings

Bookings for the Centre are now made in the office. Please ring either Clare or Irene on 811990 - if there is no reply please leave a message and one if us will get back to you the following day.

August 2007

| | | | |
|-----|----|------------------|---|
| Fri | 17 | | |
| Sat | 18 | | |
| Sun | 19 | 9:15am 6:00pm | Communion Psalm 32 "The joy of forgiveness" Evening Prayer at Oulton Church Genesis 33 "Reconciled" |
| Mon | 20 | | |
| Tue | 21 | 10:30am | Midweek service |
| Wed | 22 | | |
| Thu | 23 | | |
| Fri | 24 | | |
| Sat | 25 | | |
| Sun | 26 | 9:15am 6:00pm | Morning Prayer Psalm 33 "The Lord's steadfast love" Communion at Oulton Church Genesis 37 "Fashion or favourite" |
| Mon | 27 | | |
| Tue | 28 | 10:30am | Midweek service |
| Wed | 29 | | |
| Thu | 30 | | |
| Fri | 31 | | |

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 in the Centre during term time.

| | | | |
|-----------------|---------|----------------------|----------|
| Monday Toddlers | 9.30 am | Friday Little Fishes | 11.00 am |
|-----------------|---------|----------------------|----------|

Family matters

‘You can choose your friends, but you can’t choose your family.’ Family relationships require an investment of time and effort and the way you relate to your flesh and blood matters. A good family life is precious and a family break up is deeply painful. Are families the key to a healthy society? The Bible teaches ‘yes, but...’!

‘Yes’: family relationships do have an impact on society. The Bible teaches that relationships work best when we follow God’s blueprint. These things may not sit easily with one culture or another, but as we live by the Word of God it brings Him honour and leads to life and peace for us. At the heart of God’s plan is the institution of marriage, which is for the good of the couple and also society. One key purpose of marriage is to prevent sexual chaos breaking out – the ramifications of which rumble on for years. When families work well then there are positive knock-on effects for others: partners are loved and cared for, children are nurtured, single relatives are included and valued.

‘But!’: a more important underlying issue needs to be addressed. Jesus once told a parable about how the younger of two brothers went off with his share of his dad’s will (in advance of his death!). The son wasted it on wild living and ran out of funds. He reached a low ebb feeding pigs on a farm and tucking into their meals! He decided to return home and rehearsed in his mind his humble apology and the plea to be taken on as a servant. Yet, before he arrived home, his dad (who’d been on the look out for his son ever since his departure), ran out and threw his arms around him, and had a big welcome home party with the fattened calf as the main course! When the older brother turned up he was furious and resentful of this special treatment for waster. But his father said: *‘my son you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found’* (Luke 15v31-32). God the Father longs for us to humbly return home to Him, to become part of His family. When we are reconciled to God then he gives us the help and motivation to sort out human relationships.

(continued on next page)



The summer vacation gives us time to work on restoring family relationships, but even more importantly the time to nurture our relationship with God. I hope it is a good time for you and that you will join us in the autumn term to worship Him!

Paul Kingman.

I recommend the recently published book called 'Married for God' by C. Ash (IVP 2007).

Plant Sale

Jack and Barbara Sutcliffe would like to thank all who supported their recent plant sale and for making it such an enjoyable and profitable day! A record £540 was raised, to be split equally between the needs of Christ Church, The Clifford Project and the Joshua orphanage in Malawi. The latter is an organisation caring for around 1000 children who have been left destitute due to the death of parents from AIDS or Tuberculosis. A family member has recently worked there for a short while as a volunteer and will arrange for the money to go directly into the orphanage trust fund. Thank you everyone and we hope you are enjoying your gardens!

Jack and Barbara

Greater than God - A riddle :

What is greater than God,
more evil than the devil,
the poor have it,
the rich want it,
and if you eat it, you'll die?

What is it?? (answer on page 19)

What's in a name?

As I meet new people here, and you meet me, we are going through a process of making (and receiving) an impression of someone, then having that shaped over time. First impressions are very important, but seldom accurate! It is one aspect of something we are all doing: trying to make a name for ourselves. If all the world is a stage, we are actors playing out a performance before different audiences, hoping to impress others, win friends and influence people. Whether outgoing Prime Minister or 'bloke down the pub' we want our name to be thought of well and remembered with affection, appreciation or even awe. Why else do I get so excited when someone leaves a positive comment on my blog?

The story of the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11) illustrates mankind's perpetual desire to "make a name for ourselves" (verse 4) – but it is a desire God opposes. Not only is it a rejection of God, it also prevents good relationships with each other. The need to put on a good performance may come at the expense of other people (think of office backbiting); it also hinders us from revealing our inner hopes, fears and pains to each other in case we are rejected. How often have you put on a 'Sunday best' face?

The answer to Babel is found in the promise to Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3). God says: "I will make your name great." God will, not us. And He has! Christians carry the name of Christ – what name is greater! Read through Ephesians (say) and ponder all the titles we are given in Christ: saint, son, seated with Christ, members of God's household, temple of the Spirit, children of light, and much much more.

As the Spirit convinces us that these names really are ours, our behaviour is changed. Only the security and greatness of God's name for us is able to create a community that allows honesty and openness between each other, and puts an end to self-promotion. This is what the Church is called to be.

Tim Vasby-Burnie
timvasbyburnie.blogspot.com

The PCC met on Wednesday 23 May 2007 and the following matters were reported on, discussed and/or decided.

- New church yard regulations have been released. Amongst other things they state there is to be a ban on artificial flowers.
- Smokefree England; the wardens were tasked with ensuring that we have the appropriate signs on display by 1 July.
- Discussions are taking place on a proposal to merge our Deanery with Eccleshall.
- Various people were elected to serve the PCC in the role of specific officers.
- An analysis of the amount collected by circulating the plate at services compared with leaving the plates at entrances and exits had been carried out. Comparing the Easter services it revealed a downturn of £200. It was decided to introduce collection envelopes in each of the pews, occasional announcements by the Vicar and a notice on the service sheet.
- Sunday School groups were suddenly in need of new teachers and a notice had been put on the service sheet requesting volunteers. Some response had already been received but more people were still needed.
- Geoff Hillman (our Architect) presented draft proposals for modifications to the access between the church and the centre. A display was to be put up for the members of the church to comment on the proposals.

The PCC met on Wednesday 11 July 2007 and the following matters were reported on, discussed and/or decided.

(continued on next page)

- A presentation of the development proposals for Shallowford house was made. The PCC were asked to consider giving a regular monthly donation over a period of three years. The decision was deferred until the September meeting.
- The readers will be represented by John Butterworth at the Standing Committee for this year. One further place on the Standing Committee for a PCC member remains vacant.
- Tim and Di Saxton have volunteered to represent Christ Church at Churches Together in Stone.
- Discussions have taken place with the County Council regarding the car park on Christ Church Way. It is hoped that we can mark out one additional space. Ways of further distinguishing our spaces from the rest of the car park are being considered.
- It is hoped to pilot an after school club at Christ Church First School. To make this a viable proposition we would need six to seven people to commit to the project. If you feel able to help, please contact any member of the PCC.
- Finger protection is to be installed on all doors in church and the centre to prevent any trapped finger incidents.
- The plans to better improve access between the church and the centre were again studied. While the current proposals do address the bottleneck issue when moving people from the church to the centre it does raise other issues, like high visibility of and distraction caused by anyone moving between the building during a service. The task group along with Geoff Hillman have been asked to consider other options.
- We are to pursue getting a replacement Youth Worker and Administrator to take over when Tom and Clare Nash leave.

The next PCC meeting is on Wednesday 19 September 2007.

MISSION NEWS AND PRAYER DIARY

AUGUST 2007

Please remove this section from the magazine and use it with your daily “quiet time” or prayer time.



Urgent requests for prayer will be posted up on the Overseas Mission notice board in the Centre. Please keep an eye on it and pray accordingly. Prayer requests in the weekly World Watch Prayer Link include the following:

TEARFUND

- Wed 1st Give thanks that Norway have offered to help to revive the peace talks between the warring factions in Sri Lanka. Pray that the government will present plans for the division of land which will encourage the Tamil rebel group to take part. Pray for protection for all those speaking up for peace and human rights.
- Thu 2nd Pray for those affected by heavy monsoon rains in the earthquake-affected areas of Pakistan; 13,000 people are still living in temporary accommodation. There has also been severe flooding in the North West Frontier provinces. Pray that the communities will get fresh water and food supplies.
- Fri 3rd Aid groups say that more than a third of Zimbabwe’s population will need food aid by the beginning of 2008. Give thanks that Tearfund has been able to fund a programme to feed 9,500 orphans and vulnerable children. This is being distributed through the churches and is relieving some of the immediate suffering.
- Sat 4th Trade talks between Brazil, India, the US and the EU have broken down recently. Pray that the US and the EU will make a new set of world trade rules to bring about sustainable development. Pray also that negotiators from developing countries will not forget their poorest peoples.
- Sun 5th There have been clashes between Rwandan and Congolese rebels in eastern DRC (Democratic Republic of Congo), making it difficult for aid agencies to help those who have had to leave their homes. Pray for real peace and wisdom for the government trying to govern a vast, diverse and war-scarred country. Pray also for a good relationship between DRC and Rwanda.

TIM & KATE LEE, Rebecca, James & Grace - PHILIPPINES

The Lee family returned to the Philippines last month after a stay in the UK, for family reasons, to meet their new Link churches and to raise funds.

- Mon 6th Give thanks that they have been able to increase financial support for Jigsaw during their time in the UK, but continue to pray for further funds.
- Tue 7th Pray for the family as they settle back into life in Manila.
- Wed 8th Pray for the new management at Jigsaw as they settle into their new, more responsible roles, especially Jolly, Beth and Vanessa.
- Thu 9th Continue to pray that a new building will be found for the project – there is a desperate need for larger premises
- Fri 10th Pray for preparations for the new literary programme – the curriculum is being planned and new teaching staff are being trained. Thank God that Geneva Global is funding $\frac{3}{4}$ of the cost of the programme.

**OWEN & TRACY HUMPHREYS, Ben, Steffan & Jonathan
– South INDIA**

Tracy, Steffan and Jonny have returned to Hebron, having spent the summer in the UK. Owen is staying until October – we hope he will visit Christchurch on September 30th.

- Sat 11th Pray for Tracy, Steffan and Jonny as they settle back to life in Hebron.
- Sun 12th Pray especially for Owen and Tracy as they will be separated for two months – the longest period in their marriage.
- Mon 13th Owen is expecting to be involved in many church meetings whilst in the UK. Please pray for him as meetings make him nervous.
- Tue 14th Pray that Ben will settle in the UK and find a job for his gap year. Pray for Owen as he supports him.
- Wed 15th Pray for staff and students at the start of a new term. Pray especially for new students – that they may settle well and build friendships.

RALPH & DAGMAR BARON, Helen, Sarah & Simon – S.INDIA

- Thu 16th Pray for Helen and her husband Elliot as they begin married life together. (They were married on 11th August.)
- Fri 17th Pray for all the family as they return to demanding work and study, especially Sarah restarting her medical course in Brighton. (Ralph, Dagmar and Simon returned to India on 13th August.)
- Sat 18th Pray that the staff dispute can be resolved before the term starts.
- Sun 19th Pray for all recent leavers as they make new beginnings in very different environments, especially for those who have found faith at school.
- Mon 20th Ralph is thankful for the support of his colleagues in the Computer Department last year and the progress that was made. Pray that this progress will continue.

REBECCA – PAKISTAN

Rebecca teaches English in Pakistan.

- Tues 21st Please pray for a peaceful atmosphere in Pakistan, so that Rebecca and will be able to work in safety. Pray for all Christians in Pakistan, that they will be able to live in harmony with those of other religions.
- Wed 22nd Pray for the girls at Rebecca's school, that they will work hard and do well in their exams.

STEPHEN & TABITA BELL, Sheona, Joshua & Benjamin – CROATIA

Stephen & Tabita are involved in a church-planting ministry in Zagreb, Croatia.

- Thu 23rd Stephen travels a lot around the former Yugoslavia and Albania. Please pray for safety as there are poor quality roads and still some problems with bandits.

- Fri 24th Please pray for the wife (Lidija) and family of Peter MacKenzie, minister at the Radiceva Baptist church in Zagreb, who died in July from leukaemia. Stephen had worked closely with Peter, who was from Cumbria.
- Sat 25th As the church in Dubrava looks to be financially independent of its mother church in Zagreb, please pray that the Dubrava church will be able to grow in numbers and in strength.
- Sun 26th Please pray for a young man called Nenad, a new Christian who was baptised in July, that he will hold firm to his new faith and be a loyal church member.
- Mon 27th Pray for Nenad and Marina, the first couple to be married in the Dubrava church.

JONATHAN & ROBINAH BEESIGOMWE – BOTSWANA

Jonathan and Robinah are involved in student outreach and HIV/AIDS education. They are Ugandan citizens and have seven children.

- Tue 28th Jonathan and Robinah have started a new ministry work with families and young people. Please pray that this will work out, and that they will see young people coming to a Christian faith.
- Wed 29th Pray for children and young people growing up in Botswana, that they will be able to avoid the sexual temptations they see around them and in advertisements and films from Europe and America.
- Thu 30th Elijah Beesigomwe is studying at university in Uganda. Please pray that he will be able to manage on limited funds and do well in his studies. Nicholas cannot go to university yet (no money), but is working in a church in South Africa. Please pray that he will be happy in this work.
- Fri 31st Six women became Christians recently at one of the church meetings. Jonathan found out later that they are all commercial sex workers. They said that they want to give up their sex work but have no other income. Please pray that they will find other work.

The Future of Christianity

It's very easy to get depressed about the state of the Church of England, or even about the future of Christianity. Attendance figures show some encouraging signs (especially in churches that have taken on board the heart of the Going for Growth strategy); but there is a very long way to go. The Anglican Communion is deeply divided on issues such as human sexuality, and may yet split. And Christianity is not the only faith (Islam is another) to experience a growing tension between hard-line fundamentalists and ultra-liberals. What's more, atheists and secularists appear to be becoming more vocal.

If (like me) you find this situation worrying, I have a suggestion to make. Find £10.99 and buy yourself a copy of Philip Jenkins' book *The Next Christendom*. It's available in paperback from Oxford University Press and was first published in 2002. Jenkins is Professor of History and Religious Studies at Pennsylvania State University. His great achievement is to oblige his readers to open their eyes to what God is doing in the worldwide church. He explodes the myth that Christianity is primarily a European or North American movement. For its first thousand years, it was very much an Asian and African one. In the fourth century, long before anyone had ever heard of St Augustine of Canterbury or Thomas Cranmer, Christianity had become the official religion in Ethiopia and Armenia.

Now, in the twenty-first century, it is again the southern hemisphere where Christianity is growing at an astonishing rate. All churches, perhaps with the exception of the Orthodox, are witnessing this growth. Christianity is growing among the prosperous, but even more among the millions of migrants and displaced young people who are changing the face of our cities. Most commentators and politicians are aware of the growth of Islam; very few pay any attention at all to the way Christianity is growing even more swiftly. Nor is this just about numerical growth: it's about a new (some would say a return to the original) life-changing, dynamic Christianity that refuses to separate the spiritual from the secular, the personal from the political. It is rooted in a new approach to Scripture, a new expectancy that God is acting and will act to change our world.

How should we react to this? We need to get to know Christians from the southern hemisphere. Our World Mission Officer, Michael Sheard, can tell you how to do that through our existing links. We need to pray, in an informed and thoughtful way, for Christians in the southern hemisphere and praise God for them. We need to remind our politicians and secularists that Christianity is on the march across the world. We need to let go of our tired parochial self-absorption and rejoice in the fact that the next pope and the next archbishop of Canterbury are more likely to come from Ghana or Guatemala than Godalming or Germany. And we need to read that book.

Gordon Mursell (Bishop of Stafford)

Our Prayers for Those who are Ill

Some 3 years ago when I realised that I would not be able to drive again I had to re-think my part in the Pastoral Care Group. I was able to offer to keep in contact by telephone with those for whom we are asked to pray. This has proved to be quite successful. We are in touch regularly and are able to share thoughts and cares and prayers in confidence.

I feel that this is a very important part of our intercessions when we as a congregation can lift those who are ill, and often their families and carers, to the Lord by name. I find it very reassuring to read Isaiah 49 v 16 when the Lord says "I can never forget you. I have written your name on the palms of my hands."

And so our list is kept up to date and our dear ones are prayed for weekly by name. Then as they start to recover we don't let them go quickly. Sometimes they go on to the monthly list until they say to me, "I'm O.K. now Barbara, I think I can come off the list." That to me is a real joy and we thank the Lord. We may not all know each and every person but if we just hold the name of someone to the Lord — it is so important and matters so much to those who are prayed for. They tell me regularly what a comfort and strength it is; and so—LET US PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL — regularly and with love, let us hold them to the Lord.

Barbara Thornicroft.

30 Years in Sunday School

Just to say “thank you” for the gift which I was presented with during morning service on June 24th.

30 years in Sunday School?? I had to check - I started when we moved to Stone when Sarah was 2 years old - we started together! And she is now 32. So it must be correct!

The years have been both enjoyable and rewarding - if you feel that this is an area in which you would like to be involved (subject to required checks), please volunteer your services - you will enjoy it.

Janet Booth

"JESUS: THE IMAGE OF HUMANITY - Lukes Account"

Our daughter, Sue, recommended this book to me - and having read it, I agreed with her. The author, Anselm Grun, was asked to write an introduction to the Gospel of Luke that was easy to understand and would get people interested in this marvellous book of the New Testament.

I guess some of our favourite stories about Jesus come from Luke - his birth ... many of the accounts of people being healed the parables of the Good Samaritan and the Prodigal Son and the fact that women feature far more prominently in Luke's Gospel than in the other three Gospels probably appeals to some of us.

In a very simple and readable way, this book helps us to look again (or maybe for the first time) at this particular account of Jesus. The author wants to connect what concerns people today with what it was about Jesus that fascinated Luke, as a man of his time. He hopes that this book will enable readers to read the Gospel of Luke with new eyes, read it as they have never read it before

He concludes "I hope that readers will have the same experience as the disciples on the Emmaus road: "did not our hearts burn within us as he talked to us on the road and explained the scriptures to us?" I hope that your hearts will burn and your eyes will be opened to understand the mystery of the merciful love of God which has shone out for us in Jesus Christ and has visited us here on earth ".

So - why not look again at Luke's Gospel with the help of this book -and meet Jesus maybe in a way you haven't met him before.

"Jesus: the Image of Humanity" by Anselm Grun, published by Continuum. 2003.

Sally Vaughan

News from Stephen and Tabita Bell, Zagreb

Peter Mackenzie (Baptist minister at the Radiceva church in Zagreb) died in July in the fullness of ministry, having been a missionary to Yugoslavia and then Croatia some 30+ years. He'd been pastoring the biggest Baptist church in Croatia since the early 90's and was one of the main speakers at our recent Pentecost Tent Campaign just 7 weeks ago. Peter was a great encourager and enabler for the vision of more churchplants in the Zagreb area over these coming years. I first met Peter in March 1985 whilst I was a student at All Nations Christian College doing 6 weeks practical experience. Little did we know we'd work together in Zagreb! Praise the Lord for Peter's life. He's been a huge testimony for many and really encouraged growth, vision and stability in the Radiceva Baptist church and in Zagreb. Pray for those left behind, especially wife Lidija and the children. Pray for the Radiceva Baptist church (& our little Dubrava!). The leadership must now re-organise and has already called on the 2 congregations to fast and pray over the Summer for God's guidance. There is already an adequate leadership, with 4 elders and assistant pastor so they have time to consider God's will.

New Life in Jesus...consolidated!

Praise God for Nenad and his decision to get baptised! Nenad was brought up in Germany and gave his life to God in 1999. He returned to work in Croatia just as we started the Dubrava church-plant in October 2004. He enthusiastically joined the church, but kind of put-off getting baptised. Just recently his life has stabilised a lot and he decided to get baptised. The MacKenzie family hosted the event, inviting us to a church-lunch for 140 immediately after the Baptism and Lord's supper. On a personal note, it was a thrill and a privilege to baptise in Croatian, instead of my usual Albanian! In Albania we were used to baptising 100 each Summer! Here our joys are more choice! It's all happening for Nenad at this moment! Not only are Marina and Nenad the first to be baptised in the new-ish Dubrava churchplant, but they will also be the first to be married! Please pray for God's outworking in their lives; that they get a good start, that their lives be a good testimony and that they have a growing and stable ministry together

Bell Family News..

The children did well with top marks in each of their classes! .Pray as Joshua and Benjamin change their private school to join Sheona's local school Pray we have a great family holiday in August with Tabita's side of the family in Croatia Pray for new energy and renewed vision for the coming year after August Thanks once again for partnering in the gospel with us.

Stephen looks forward to seeing you on deputation Nov 2007!

So, much love from Stephen, Tabita, Sheona, Joshy and Benjamin

About Jesus

Pupils at the Middle School have been writing about Jesus. Here are some extracts.

He lived for a mere thirty years but in these years he affected more people than any great leader that ever lived, any noble king or any warlord that the world has ever seen. (Ben)

Because of Jesus I go to church on Sundays. I also go to a church school where we are taught about God and told stories from the bible. I try to be good and kind to others as this is what Jesus taught us. I believe the stories in the bible are true. (Molly)

Jesus told many stories all of which had a meaning, one of which was to love your neighbours and treat people how you would like people to treat you. (Lauren)

Easter is the main thing for me. No, not just the chocolate but the resurrection of Jesus. (Kerry)

His enemies whipped him, beat him and nailed him to a cross between two thieves and left him there to die. Jesus was still forgiving as his last words to God were "forgive them Father for they do not know what they are doing". (Dominique)

Growing up he worked in a carpenter's shop until he was thirty. Later he became a teacher, not like our teachers at a school but a man who would wander around speaking to people and teaching them how to live their lives through stories. (Charlotte)

People feel better praying to God because you can tell him about your worries and thank him for the good things that have happened to you and he always listens. (Molly)

Garden Party

**Saturday 11th August 2007
2.00pm to 4.30pm**

**Stalls -- Bring and Buy, Cakes, Plants,
Records, CDs and Videos, Tombola
Many Games and Competitions**

REFRESHMENTS

Cream Teas and home-made cakes

GUIDED TOURS

**See the House, the recent improvements
and plans for the future**

PRAYER

Use the Chapel for a time of quiet prayer

**Please Bring Contributions for the
Bring and Buy, Cake and Plant stalls.
Received from 1.30pm.**

Shallowford House, Shallowford, Stone. ST15 0NZ.
01785 760233

Sandy but Sweet

Two friends were walking through the desert. During some point of the journey, they had an argument, and one slapped the other one in the face. The one who got slapped was hurt, but without saying anything, wrote in the sand:

“Today my best friend slapped me in the face”

They kept on walking, until they found an oasis, where they decided to take a bath. The one who had been slapped got stuck in the mire and started drowning, but the friend saved him. After he recovered from the near-drowning, he wrote on a stone,

“Today my best friend saved my life”

The friend who had slapped and saved his best friend asked him, “after I hurt you, you wrote in the sand and now you write on a stone, why?”

The friend replied, “when someone hurts us we should write it down in sand, where winds of forgiveness can erase it away. But, when someone does something good for us, we must engrave it in stone where no wind can ever erase it.”

Learn to write your hurts in the sand and to carve your benefits in stone. They say it takes a minute to find a special person, an hour to appreciate them, a day to love them, but then an entire life to forget them.

Do not value the things you have in your life, but value whom you have in your life!

From Dave Rowlands

Greater than God (answer)

The answer is "nothing". Nothing is greater than God, nothing is more evil than the devil, the poor have nothing, the rich want nothing, and if you eat nothing you will die!

"I will remember the works of the LORD; Surely I will remember Your wonders of old. I will also meditate on all Your work, and talk of Your deeds. Your way, O God, is in the sanctuary; Who is so great a God as our God? You are the God who does wonders..." (Psalm 77:11-14a) (from Mike Thompson)

FROM THE REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

24th June Francesca McKenzie

SIDESPERSIONS ROTA

5th August I.Gassor, V.Ledward, D.Davies, A.West

12th August D.Wilson, G.Holden, A.Greer, J.Abrahams

19th August J.Rowlands, S.Hallam,D.Pickles, T.MacFarlane

26th August P.Hipkiss, P.Tunstall, M.Hutchinson, B.Hutchinson

FLOWER ROTA

5th August Ms Price/ Freakley

12th August Mrs G. Banks

19th August Mrs B. Boote

26th August Mrs M. Hutchinson



ROADS FOR PRAYER

5th August

Victor Street
Victoria Street
Whitebridge Lane
Alma Street

12th August

Bromfield Court
Dominic Street
Granville Terrace
King's Avenue

19th August

Longton Road
Margaret Street
Newcastle Road
Newcastle Street

26th August

Northesk Street
Radford Close
Radford Street
Station Road



| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Deanery Synod Reps | Mrs S Hallam, Mr I Hawley, Mr D. Rowlands |
| P.C.C. Members | Mrs I Gassor, Mrs M Hillman, Mrs E Mason, Mr P Mason Mrs D Wilson, Mrs E Woodhead, Mrs J. Rowlands Mrs S. Morray, Mrs J. Abrahams, Mr K. Reynolds Mr A. Stone, Mr G. Holden, Mrs A. Greer |
| Secretary | Jacqueline Abrahams.....817020 |
| Treasurer | Kevin Reynolds.....851595 |
| Envelopes, Gift Aid | Nesta Challinor |

GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

| | |
|---|------------------------------|
| Climbers 3-7 years | Sandra Morray.....286093 |
| Explorers 7-11 years | Estella Woodhead.....761659 |
| Pathfinders 11-14 years | Enid Bell.....815775 |
| Cornerstone Bible Study | Thomas Nash.....286551 |
| Youth Group Yr9 upwards | Thomas Nash.....286551 |
| 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 |
| Friday "Little Fishes" (Fri 11am – 1.30pm) | Cecilia Wilding.....817987 |

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.com). 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 Middle 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).

Subscriptions

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