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Please get your contributions for the February magazine to the editor by Friday 10th January.

Christ Church on the Internet

Visit our website at www.lichfield.anglican.org/stoke/trentham/stonecc

E-mail the Parish Office at christchurchcentre@pgen.net

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Send your contributions for this magazine to
christchurch_mag@yahoo.co.uk

JANUARY

Su 2 CHRISTMAS 2

- 9.15 am Parish Communion**
Sermon Text – John 1: 35-51 We have found!
(No Sunday School)
- 6.00 pm Evening Prayer at Christ Church**
Sermon Text: Micah 6:1-7:v6
-

- Mo 3 9.00 am Prayer Group in Christ Church to pray for children and young people.
- Tu 4 7.30 pm Standing Committee
- We 5 No Mothers' Union this month
Stafford Mission Action Plan with the Bishop of Lichfield
- Th 6 1.20 pm Christ Church Middle School Assembly
- Fr 7 Beauty and the Feast at Blessed William Howard School, Stafford
- Sa 8 8.30 am Prayer Breakfast in the church and centre
-

Su 9 BAPTISM OF CHRIST

- 9.15 am Morning Prayer**
Sermon Text Titus 1:1-14
(Sunday School recommences)
- 6.00 pm Parish Communion at Christ Church**
Sermon Text – Micah 7:7-20
-

- Mo 10 9.00 am Prayer Group in Christ Church to pray for children and young people
- Tu 11 11.30 am Churches Together Fraternal in the centre
- We 12 7.30 pm PCC
- Th 13 10.30 am Holy Communion in church
11.30 am Holy Communion at St Mary's Home
1.20 pm Assembly at Christ Church Middle School
7.30 pm Meeting of Churches Together in Stone
-

Su 16 EPIPHANY 2

- 9.15 am Parish Communion - Covenant Service**
Visiting preacher Johnny Douglas from Youth for Christ - Sermon Text – Titus 1:5-16
- 6.30 pm United Service at St Dominic's church**
Start of Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Mo 17 9.00 am Prayer Group in Christ Church to pray for children and young people
Th 20 1.20 am Christ Church Middle School Assembly

Su 23 EPIPHANY 3 – EDUCATION SUNDAY

9.15 am Family Service - Christ Church First School attending

Sermon Text: Titus 2:11-15

6.00 pm Parish Communion

Sermon Text: Galatians 2:1-21

Tu 25 200th Anniversary of Trafalgar

We 26 7.30 pm Deanery Synod at Tittensor

Th 27 10.30 am Holy Communion in church

11.30 am Holy Communion at Oulton Abbey

1.20 pm Christ Church Middle School Assembly

Su 30 EPIPHANY 4

9.15 am Morning Prayer

Sermon Text: Titus 3:1-15

2.30 pm Service at Autumn House

6.00 pm Evening Prayer

Sermon Text: Galatians 3:1-18

Ed note. *Even if we are not directly involved in many of the activities in this diary, **we can all** support the meetings and other events that take place in our church. **Pray** for each activity that God will be with the people involved and that His will will be done in each case.*

The following Activities take place every week in the centre during school term time.

Monday Toddlers

9.30 am

Friday Little Fishes

11.00 am

Activities for children and young people take place in the centre during the Sunday morning service each Sunday (excluding the fourth Sunday of the month which is family service)

All children are welcome

Climbers 3-7 years

Explorers 7-11 years

Pathfinders 11-14 years

Wise Words...

No vacancies

The scene is familiar. The significance may by-pass us. Let me sketch out the scene briefly. The population is swollen well beyond the usual headcount. The bustling crowds are proving to be a nuisance, while individuals feel harassed. The traders are out in force to catch the passing customers and not a few comments are made about how commercialism appears to have gained the upper hand.

The place is a small town but with an important history: Bethlehem. It was little more than an outpost, or satellite town, to the much bigger capital city of Jerusalem - about 7 miles away travelling north west. The population had swollen as a result of the census of the Roman world instigated by Caesar Augustus. This required people to return to their own town to register. Here a baby boy was born with a common name of Jesus, but a unique role as *'the Christ.'* There were few places to stay in the overcrowded town. Joseph and Mary found it hard to find a place at an inn. The familiar sign **'no vacancies'** that appears in B&B's today may well have had an equivalent in their day.

The interesting twist in the tale is the fact that later on in life Jesus again found it hard to find hospitality. He was not readily recognised as *'the Christ'* and in fact his own people showed little enthusiasm to receive him. The sign **'no vacancies'** was written on the hearts and minds of many people of his day. But a great promise still stands: *'Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God'* (John 1v12). What a wonderful reality! Simply having an open heart and mind to Jesus, receiving him as we would a guest, is what is required of us in order to become a child of God! What is the sign hanging outside your house and on your heart? Is it the message *'Santa stop here,'* or *'Jesus come and live here'?*

I'd love to see you during this special season at our services and would be delighted to hear that you have made room for Jesus, the Word made flesh.

Wishing you a happy Christmas.

Paul Kinaman



6

7

Christ Church First School News

At the time of writing, the end of term is fast approaching, and we still have many special events to look forward to in school.

Last Sunday we took part in the 'Light up a Life' ceremony in support of the Douglas Macmillan Hospice. This was a very moving yet uplifting ceremony, as 1,200 people gathered to share memories of loved ones, and finally to witness the darkness infused with light as each person lit up a light stick in memory of a loved one.

Our Choir truly gave their best performance as we sang 'Starry Night' and 'I am a small part of the world'. The ceremony was recorded by Radio Stoke and we look forward to hearing the broadcast 'In thy Name' on Sunday 12th December - what a tremendous way to end the year!

Happy New Year.

Janet Booth
Music Co-ordinator

9

10

NOTICES

The Church Centre will be closed on Thursday 30th December for carpet cleaning.

Magazine Subscriptions

2005 magazine subscriptions are now due, please help the distributors by having this ready for collection. The subscription charge is £2.50. A big thank-you to everyone who delivers Christ Church magazine, I know that it is appreciated by many people.

Marylyn Hillman.

Christmas Walks

Do you feel you need some fresh air and exercise after all the Christmas food? Stone Ramblers have a five mile walk in the Stone area on Wednesday 29th December and a nine and a half mile walk to Tittensor Chase and the Downs Banks on Thursday 20th December. Both walks start from Westbridge Park at 10 am. Bring a drink, and a picnic for the longer walk. Speak to Dorothy Wilson for more information.



Please do stop and look at the little books on the table by the main entrance of the centre. These books carry a text or message along with very attractive pictures, ideal to send to a friend who is ill or in need of encouragement. You will also be helping to fund our out reach project.

Audrey Haywood



MOTHERS UNION – SEND A COW

Last Christmas some of our members gave a donation to SEND A COW a charity, in lieu of Christmas cards to friends at Christ Church. We were able to send a donation of £120.

If any member of the congregation would like to join us or would like further information on this very worthwhile work in Africa's poorest countries I will gladly give you details.

Audrey Haywood
Tel: 817122



Who are those missionaries?!

This month our mission contact is Rebecca Williams, the daughter of our former Vicar, John Williams. Rebecca spent her teenage years in the Stone area and went to Alleynes High School. She should have flown out to Pakistan for the first time the very day the first Gulf war broke out! After a delay, she finally went to Lahore on a short-term placement with CMS as a hostel warden. Following university, teacher training, and experience as a music teacher in Nottingham, she went to Redcliffe Bible College, Gloucester. During this time she went on a second placement to Pakistan for two months. Following these two visits, Rebecca discerned God's call to work in Pakistan long-term and applied to Interserve. Earlier in 2004, she went to Pakistan to visit various places where she might work. It was decided that, after six months Urdu language study in Lahore, she should work in the north of the country, teaching English as a second language. She flew out to Pakistan for a three year term in October 2004. Rebecca's article below gives us some idea what her day-to-day life is like as a language student.'

Lahore, and language learning

Salaams from Lahore! So here I am in the middle of a hustling bustling city of 7 million people - today it is at the height of busyness - it is the day before the Eid holiday and it's like Christmas Eve here. Everyone is rushing around buying last minute presents and supplies for next week.

My days, however, are usually quiet, at the moment I am busy trying to learn Urdu. I live and study and have my lessons in a family house with a garden enclosed by high walls. I almost feel as if I am observing purdah at the moment because so much of what I do is at the house. I have two teachers, who both travel here every day. A lot of what we do consists of simple role plays (Sir, I am going to the station. How much is that? It's 35 rupees. That's very expensive, I will give you 30. OK, let's go...etc etc.

I have got to the part in the book where a new writing system takes over and the words are no longer given in Roman script. This has slowed me down a bit. The teacher reads first. "Now you please read", so I try, stumbling over the dots and dashes.

The house where I live is a hive of hospitality - it is home to an extended family

and two language students - people, friends, guests are constantly dropping in and out and there is always something spicy cooking on the stove. Food is very significant in this culture and my landlady explained that she always has something prepared to offer guests who arrive unexpectedly - as they often do! Living with a local family gives me the opportunity to make contact with many people, and to find out first hand about the culture I'm living in. I have even learned something about cricket!

My greatest need in language learning is for practice. Sometimes I spend time talking to the cook, and watching her prepare food. She explains all the ingredients and processes to me. I am amazed at how labour intensive everything is - food just doesn't come pre-packaged and ready to eat, and it takes hours to prepare.

I am finding that language learning is also labour intensive, at times fun, at times frustrating. I am trying to get over the initial hurdles of communicating at a basic level in a new language, often in position where I don't understand what is being said. Sometimes things click, and when that happens it's good. So whether it's fun or frustrating, for now, this is the place to be. Lahore is once more starting to feel like home.

Sunday Schools

Help Wanted!

The Sunday school teachers are looking for 'Classroom Assistants' to help out in Sunday School - not for leadership, just to assist with activities etc - once a month. It has become necessary to have more than one adult per class under the Child Protection policy. If interested see Estella Woodhead or any other Sunday School teacher.

New Start

Please note that from January all children will start off in church, and Sunday School classes will go into the centre 10 minutes into the service.

AN EVENING WITH BARRY AND ARTHUR

**Saturday 12th March at 7.00 pm
In the Centre**

Something for everyone!



Guessing games to play

Prizes to win

50p a go



Sale of plants

and

pots of spring bulbs

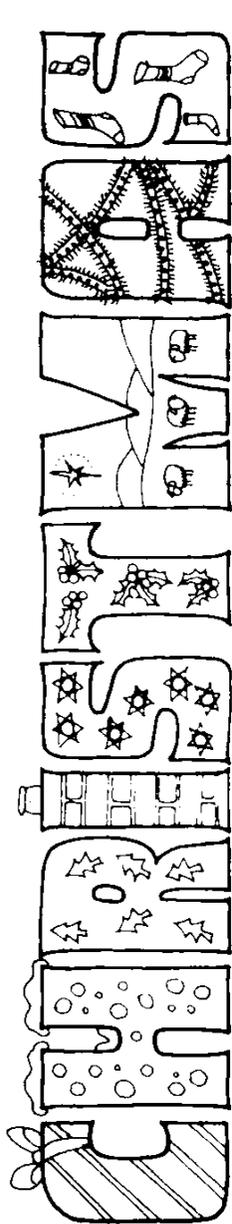
Take part in a lighthearted team quiz

Refreshments

Tickets 50p from Barry or Arthur

Proceeds to the Clifford Project

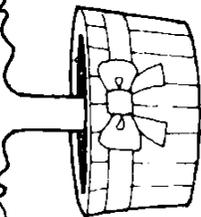
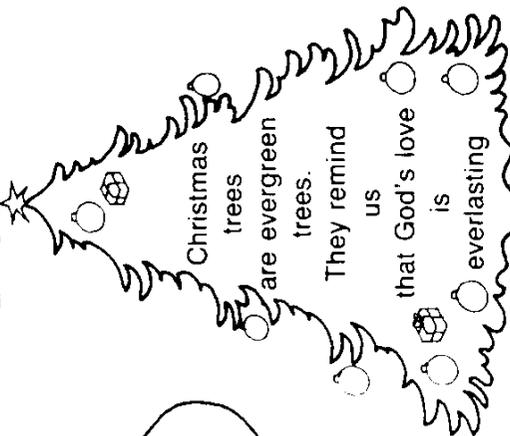
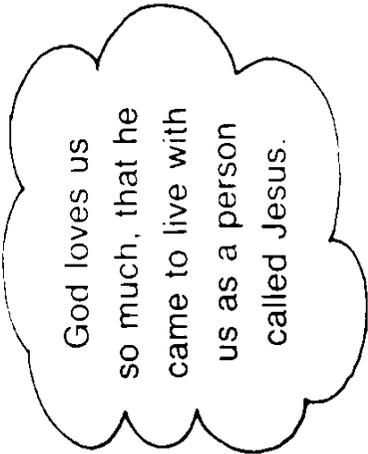
Kidz Korner



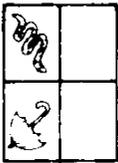
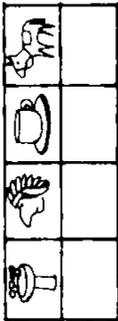
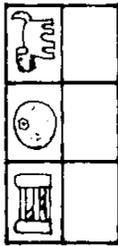
WORD SEARCH

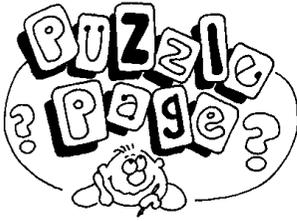
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- ANGELS
- MANGER
- BORN
- BETHLEHEM
- MARY
- JOSEPH
- JESUS
- DONKEY
- STAR
- SHEPHERDS



One of Jesus' names is IMMANUEL which means





This months puzzles take on a festive theme. They were both contributed by Arthur Foulkes.

Word Search

All the words are hidden in the grid, forwards, backwards or diagonal but always in a straight line. Letters can be used more than once. The unused words when listed will spell put the first line of a carol.

| | | | | | | | | | |
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| T | A | S | L | O | R | A | C | W | M |
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| N | S | N | S | H | K | Y | O | T | T |
| Y | N | O | T | E | A | I | A | M | F |
| L | J | E | Y | A | R | B | N | N | I |
| O | B | L | N | G | L | E | R | G | G |
| H | S | D | R | E | H | P | E | H | S |

**HOLY NIGHT
CAROLS
HOLLY
TREE**

**BETHLEHEM
THREE KINGS
TURKEY
INN**

**STAR
ANGELS
SHEPHERDS
CHOIR**

**GIFTS
STABLE
JOSEPH**

**NOEL
SANTA
MARY**

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| T | C | K | R | A | L | I | S | R | O | C |
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| W | H | P | E | W | T | T | H | F | E | A |
| S | E | S | H | H | H | N | T | F | E | L |
| D | R | E | L | I | G | I | I | A | Y | L |

Starting from the boxed centre letter move up or down or sideways (but not diagonally) to find the path along the first few words of seven carols. Each letter is used once only.



Each month at Christ Church we pray for people living in various streets in our parish.

This month we will be praying for people living in:

The Crescent
End of Granville Terrace
Millers Gate
Harley Drive

The Avenue
Trent Road
Tunley Street
Trinity Drive

Airdale Grove
Airdale Road
Airdale Spinney
Cross Street

Nicholls Lane
Old Road
Old Road Close
Oulton Cross

Lotus Court
Oulton Mews
Queens Square

Oulton Road
Princes Street
York Street

And don't forget the prayer breakfast in the centre on Saturday 4th December at 8.30am!!

From the Registers



BAPTISM

31st October Elizabeth Joanne Herward

FUNERALS

22nd October Douglas Shuker Aged 83 yrs
 6th November Nora Fox Aged 92 yrs

SIDESPERSIONS for December

| | 9.15 am | 6.00 pm |
|------------------|---|-------------|
| 5 th | S. Hallam, J. Rowlands M. Holden, G. Holden | P. Tunstall |
| 12 th | D. Pickles, S. Gerrard P. Hipkiss, D. Wilson | A. Woods |
| 19 th | J. Cooper, C. Wilding V. Ledward, P. Tunstall | D. Shemilt |
| 25 th | T. MacFarlane, T. Lockett A. West, S. Hallam | |
| 26 th | J. Rowlands, M. Holden G. Holden, M. Hutchinson, | |

Happy Birthday

18th

Kate Lauren Dumelow

2 yrs



FLOWER ROTA

5th Mrs B Boote
 12th Mrs B Ewart
 19th Christmas
 26th Flower Guild

