

Christ Church and People

30p



January

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
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	Shelagh Sanders	(Office) 811990 (Home) 760602
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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 February
magazine to us
by 15th
January

Cover Story: Jerry Cooper drew lots of wonderful pictures for this magazine, all of them buildings in our parish. Here is a picture of Princes 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

January 2007

Mon	1		
Tue	2	10:30am	Midweek communion service
Wed	3	7:30pm	Standing Committee meeting
Thu	4		
Fri	5		
Sat	6		
Sun	7	9:15am 6:00pm	Communion: Luke 3:1-20 "Make Way for the Lord" Evening Prayer: Matthew 8:1-17 "Jesus heals many"
Mon	8	9:00am 6:30pm	Prayers for schools and young people Cornerstone at 78 Oulton Rd
Tue	9	9:30am 10:30am 7:30pm	Christ Church First School assembly Midweek communion service Youth Club in the Centre
Wed	10	10:00am 12:30pm 8:00pm	Deanery Standing Committee Men's Group lunch at Shallowford House 20's group at the vicarage
Thu	11	1:20pm	Christ Church Middle School assembly
Fri	12		
Sat	13	8:30am 9:00am	Prayer Meeting in church Breakfast in the Centre
Sun	14	9:15am 6:30pm 7:45pm	Morning Prayer: Luke 11:1-13 "The generous God" Churches Together service at Manor Rise School Churches Together AGM
Mon	15	9:00am 6:30pm	Prayers for schools and young people Cornerstone at 78 Oulton Rd
Tue	16	10:30am 12:30pm 7:30pm	Midweek communion service Seekers group at the Middle School Youth Club in the Centre
Wed	17	7:30pm	PCC meeting
Thu	18	1:20pm 5:30pm 7:30pm	Christ Church Middle School assembly Mother's Union AGM Institution of Rev. Ian Cardinal at St. Michael's

January 2007

Fri	19		
Sat	20		
Sun	21	9:15am 6:00pm	Communion: Luke 18:1-8 "What not to do!" Evening Prayer: Matthew 9:1-13 "He came for sinners"
Mon	22	9:00am 6:30pm	Prayers for schools and young people Cornerstone at 78 Oulton Rd
Tue	23	9:30am 10:30am 12:30pm 7:30pm	Christ Church First School assembly Midweek communion service Seekers club at Christ Church Middle School Youth Club in the Centre
Wed	24	8:00pm	20's group at the vicarage
Thu	25	1:20pm	Christ Church Middle School assembly
Fri	26		
Sat	27	4:00pm	Beetle Drive Social
Su	28	9:15am 6:00pm	Family: Luke 18:9-17 "who needs a makeover?" Communion: Matthew 9:14-26 "wine and wonders"
Mo	29	9:00am 6:30pm	Prayers for schools and young people Cornerstone at 78 Oulton Rd
Tu	30	10:30am 12:30pm 7:30pm	Midweek communion service Seekers club at Christ Church Middle School Youth Club in the Centre
We	31	12:00 8:00pm	Deanery Chapter Meeting at Fulford 20's group at the vicarage

Activities for young people take place in the centre during the Sunday morning service each Sunday except the fourth 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
Friday Little Fishes	11.00 am



God's Covenant People.

At the start of January we hold our annual **covenant service** in each of the churches. The word covenant is not used much other than if you are a lawyer, tax inspector, or theologian! So, here's an attempt to make clear what it means in a Christian context.

Whenever a Christian disciple reads about a '*covenant*' in the Bible they hit on a precious word. Its roots are found in the Old Testament where it is used to describe how God chose a people to be in a special relationship with Him. This special bond was sealed by a sacrifice. God's covenant was summarised by the promise: '*I will be your God, and you shall be my people*' (e.g. Gen 17v7). The Lord promised to be faithful to His covenant people, the sign of which was circumcision. A response of trust and obedience was required, with stern penalties for covenant breakers.

The history of God's covenant people records how they violated the covenant by disregarding God's laws about worship, riding rough shod over moral codes, compromising the Sabbath, and doubting God's promises. They even worshipped false gods, which promised wealth, status, fertility, or safety. Such unfaithfulness led to punishment, most notably in their exile to a foreign land. Once broken, the covenant fellowship could only be re-entered through sincere repentance and sacrifice. But this required a change of heart and proved to be the sticking point for a hard-hearted people.

The Old Testament prophets spoke of *a new covenant*: the time when the Messiah would reign as the righteous king in the hearts of his people. This would be possible through the Holy Spirit changing the heart of the believer so that they would want to follow the Lord's ways and rely on His power to do so. The coming of Jesus Christ introduced this *new covenant* through his own death, hence during a celebration of the Lord's Supper we remember his words of institution: '*this cup is the new covenant in my blood*' (1 Cor 11v25). The cross is simultaneously the reminder-sign of Christ's blood, which was shed to establish the covenant, and his loving commitment of faithfulness. His covenant people are to trust and obey him, to rely on the cross for their ongoing forgiveness and pledge of future blessings. So, the covenant service is a time to remember the Lord's mercy to us in Jesus Christ, and provides an opportunity to rededicate ourselves to Him. I'm hoping that all on the electoral roll will be able to make this special service.

Wishing you a very happy New Year as we learn more about God's grace in 2007.

Paul Kingman.



Introducing our Covenant Service guest preacher.

The **Revd Philip Hacking** is currently an itinerant preacher travelling around the country and occasionally abroad. A retired Anglican clergyman, he was a rector in Edinburgh for ten years and then for almost thirty years vicar of Christ Church Fulwood, Sheffield. For many years he was a speaker at the Keswick Convention and was chairman for nine years. He was also chairman of Word Alive (Spring Harvest) and of Reform, an Anglican evangelical action group. Married to Margaret he has two children and five grandchildren. He is the author of one or two books, the most recent being a short commentary on Hebrews published by Day One. For his sins he is an avid supporter of Sheffield Wednesday and the English cricket team in all its ups and downs!

(received from Philip Hacking)

(Dave Bell adds)

My father Jack Bell remembers playing cricket against a team including Philip Hacking. My father was batting and Philip came to bowl. He sent down a beamer which hit my father on the head and went for 4 runs. Despite wearing no head protection, he didn't feel a thing and continued batting.

Exciting opportunity to visit the Lees in Manila

CMS are organising a visit for representatives from the Lees' Link Churches (of which Christ Church is one) to see the work that Tim & Kate Lee are doing amongst street children in Manila. The proposed visit is for 2 weeks in November 2007, cost £1,000+. If at all interested, see Cecilia soon!

Rebecca's Visit

Rebecca Williams, daughter of John & Mary Williams, will be with us in church on Sunday morning, 11th February 2007. She will be with us again on the evening of Thursday 15th February 2007 in the Centre when she will speak of her recent experiences in Pakistan.

Do plan to come.

Charles Simeon and his Patronage Trust

A young undergraduate arrived in Cambridge at the beginning of 1779 having completed his schooling at a spartan Eton. He was a proud young man and fussy about his appearance. As with all undergraduates of his time Charles Simeon would have had to go to his college chapel day by day, but the Provost of King's College left a note in his room soon after he arrived to say that it was obligatory for him to attend Holy Communion from time to time. He later wrote that on looking at that note he realised that he was as fit as the devil to take Communion, so in desperation he went out and purchased some religious books which might help him. While his reading continued, he went to Communion during Lent, still not understanding very much of what Christianity was all about. However on Easter Day 1779, as he went up to take Communion in King's College Chapel, he realised, for the first time, that Christ had died for his sins, and because Christ lives he could be trusted for forgiveness and for the whole of life.

This new experience was something that he felt he must be able to share with other people who were his contemporaries. However for nearly two years he found no one who had an experience of Christ similar to his own. Then he found a parson in one of the villages in the Fens who understood what he had experienced. At the end of his three year course in Cambridge, Charles Simeon felt God's call to ordination and was ordained by the Bishop of Ely to a curacy at St Edward's Church in the centre of Cambridge, just opposite King's. His preaching was so popular that the Vicar decided to leave for an extended holiday! When Holy Trinity, Cambridge became vacant later that year, the Bishop of Ely offered it to young Charles Simeon who was still not priested. The reason for this was that Charles Simeon's father and the Bishop were great friends! The Churchwardens and congregation at Holy Trinity were so incensed by this appointment that the pew doors were locked when Simeon conducted the worship, and when he introduced an unheard of evening service (in those days Evening Prayer was said in the afternoon) the Churchwardens chained and locked the gates of the churchyard. For eight years opposition continued, but Charles Simeon carried on preaching and expounding the Bible.

God so blessed his ministry that men began to offer for the ordained ministry. Patrons in those days, however, would have nothing to do with men rather like Methodists who were very much in evidence at the time. So at his own expense Charles Simeon bought up the patronage of a number of parishes up and down the country, and presented men to them who were what he termed 'Gospel men'. When he died there were 29 parishes in his Trust and the Trustees down the years have so done their work that a number of other parishes have been given to the Trust making a total of around 140.

The work of Simeon's Trustees

Simeon's trustees seek, by the grace of God, to find God's choice for the new vicar of a parish where a vacancy occurs. Although trustees have the specific responsibility to fill a vacancy, in practice trustees work cooperatively with the Bishop and/or Archdeacon and the appointed parish reps. When a vacancy occurs a trustee is chosen to represent all the trustees in the appointment process and, as patron, the trustees usually administer that process. One of the first things that trustee seeks to do is to visit the parish and meet with the P.C.C; usually, this is helpful both for the trustee and the P.C.C. No fees are charged for the work involved in making an appointment; although it should be noted that the P.C.C. is responsible for paying the costs of any advertisements.

In addition, trustees are happy to visit parishes at other times for special occasions or to preach, or to advise regarding some given situation. However, in those circumstances payment of expenses is usually requested, as the trustees have no regular income besides donations.

There are about fourteen trustees, spread across England. The trustees are not paid and do this work in their 'spare time'. To facilitate our work a very efficient Administrative Secretary is employed, on a part-time basis. Trustees act together even if we are usually represented by just one trustee for any given appointment. When appointing trustees we also look to have representations from the various strands of evangelical Anglican life. The trustees meet together about eight times a year to pray for and discuss current vacancies.

Kim Hitch

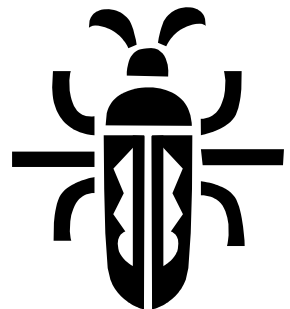
Treasurer to Simeon's Trustees

Beetle Drive:

Sat 27th January from 4.00-6.00 p.m. at Christ Church Centre.

Bring and share tea. Fun for any age! Tickets available in the new year.

Further details: Phil Tunstall.



Now that I am 15, the time has come to leave Pathfinder Sunday School group, and take part in Sunday services with the rest of the congregation. In the seven years I have been at Christ Church, I have enjoyed being in both the Explorers and the Pathfinders and feel that my faith has grown strongly from these and my confirmation in October 2004. I would like to thank Enid especially, for all that she has done for me, and also Becky, Dan and Angela, who have made Sunday mornings enjoyable. I shall miss the Pathfinder session, but feel I now need to move on.

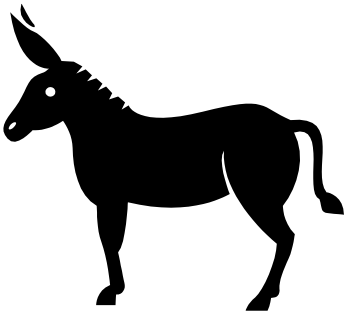
Bethan and I have now completed the three months service for our Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award, but don't hesitate to ask if there are any jobs we can help out with: we want to play as much a part in the life of the Church as everyone else does.

Tom Woodhead

I go into the Church Centre with Mrs Booth and Mrs Morray and some other children in the Climbers Group. We have these little leaflets and we learn about Jesus by doing some activities, writing with pens and sometimes we colour in.

Every week we sing songs like "As for me in my house" and "Our God is a great big God". I like making things like the angels and bread that seems to rise.

David Stone



The Donkey Column

Desperate Donkey Dash!

An Heroic Donkey helped Mary, Joseph and the young child Jesus to escape from tyrannical King Herod, who had issued an order to kill all boys under two years old in Bethlehem. Mary, Joseph and Jesus arrived safely in Egypt where they stayed until Herod was dead.

We met together on the 6th December for our Christmas lunch, which was enjoyed by all but was touched with sadness as this was the last meeting of Christ Church Mothers' Union. It has been decided to disband due to the fact that we have no one at the moment who feels able to take on the leadership. Maureen Lamb has been our acting Leader and Secretary for sometime now, supported by me as Treasurer. Maureen with her husband Richard will be leaving the area during the early part of this year to set up home in Milton Keynes. Margaret Mance who has also been a pillar of help, will also be leaving the area shortly to live closer to her son David. After a whole year trying to find a way in which we could carry on, it was felt that to close was our only option. We do pray however that someone in the future will feel able to reopen the Branch again. The Mothers' Union is a long established worldwide organisation helping with many projects both at home and abroad, and a number of our members have opted to continue membership through the Diocese. To conclude we wish both Maureen and Margaret well and hope that they will find friendship in a church family close to their new homes.

Irene Gassor

An Evening with Phil and Arthur
Saturday 3rd March in the Centre
Something for Everyone!

Sale of Plants and Pots of Spring Bulbs
Guessing Games to Play with Great Prizes to Win!
Be part of a team in a light-hearted Quiz

Refreshments

Tickets £1 from Phil and Arthur

Proceeds to the Church General Fund

The evening act of worship on the first Sunday in January will be led by Roger Vaughan. It will revolve around Psalm 31:14-15

"But I trust in you, O Lord;
I say, "you are my God"
My times are in your hands"

Part of what it means to be whole is to recognise that we are creatures with a past, a present and a future. We shall seek the Lord's healing grace on our lives by

- Looking back - how have we seen God guiding our lives and how have we sometimes not obeyed His loving guidance?
- Asking what effect does the past have on us now? We shall seek God in the present moment of this worship
- Lastly as we look to the future, we will seek Gods grace to help us move forward with faith, hope and love.

To be able to say with utter conviction "My times are in your hands" is a profound statement of faith, particularly important as we start of a new year together.

RMV

The Friends of Shallowford have arranged a

QUIET DAY

on Thursday 8th February to be held at Shallowford House entitled;

“They came to Jesus”

led by Sally Vaughan.

Coffee will be available from 9:30 am. The first session will start at 10:00 am and the day will finish with a cup of tea at 3:45 pm. The cost will be £15.00. To book, please phone the Warden of Shallowford on 01785 760233. Numbers will be restricted to 24, so maybe early booking is advisable.

From our American Correspondent

Dear Friends

I write to you this month from Beaufort (pronounced Bewfort) South Carolina. It is the third week in December and the weather here is like a spring day in Stone. We are moored in the Downtown Marina, only a few steps from the historic homes along Bay Street.

The Americans are very proud of any houses that they can call historic and in the towns we've passed through recently, Beaufort (pronounced Bowfort) North Carolina, Georgetown, Charleston, they have guided walks around the oldest streets pointing out the age of the houses and telling of the important people who lived in them.

The oldest existing houses here date from the early 1700s and St Helena's Episcopal Church was built in 1724. Today I attended the Thursday morning Holy Communion and had a lovely chat afterwards with the deaconess. During the Revolutionary War (what we learnt at school to call the American War of Independence) we British stabled our horses in the church but they were able to turn the other cheek and give two of our officers a decent burial in their graveyard. In their Civil War the church was used as a hospital and the surgeons used the tombs as operating tables! And she told me that at Christmas and Easter they use the silver communion service given to St Helena's in 1734 in memory of a lady massacred by the local Indians. When she handled the chalice for the first time she nearly dropped it – it was so large and heavy.

The Southerners are enormously warm and hospitable. We were fortunate enough to spend Thanksgiving with some boating friends and were collected from our mooring and taken home for dinner, then driven all the way back, four hours at the wheel in all. The guests were our friend's aged mother, his three brothers and sisters, their spouses and children of all ages, his best friend and us. Before we sat down to dinner we stood in a circle, holding hands to say Grace. Our friend thanked God for all his blessings to the family and then asked specially for protection for Terry and me on the rest of our journey.

As soon as Thanksgiving is over (fourth Thursday in November) the Americans get out their Christmas decorations, not just the inside ones, but wreaths and red bows on all the outside doors, windows, fences etc as well as the strings of lights, large inflatable Santas and the usual sleighs and reindeer. We saw a church in Charleston totally covered in lights with an illuminated message on the roof "A King is Born". And a local radio station has been playing nothing but Christmas songs and carols since 1st December.

When you read this it will be Epiphany but be sure that Terry and I will have been thinking of you all during the Christmas season. When we take part in a service here we feel so close to our friends at Christ Church. We shall be back with you before too long. God bless you.

Monica Darlington

Chipping Away at the Mountain

An ancient Chinese parable tells of Old Tan Chang who had a small farm overshadowed by a towering mountain. One day he got the idea to get rid of the mountain. With the help of his wife and sons, he began to hack at the rock around its base. A neighbour walked by and scoffed, "You will never finish the job, old man! There are not enough days in the year for you to do this."

But Tan replied confidently, "I am not as foolish as you think, my friend. I may be old and feeble, but after I am gone, my sons will continue to peck away at the mountain. Then their sons and their sons' sons will do the same. Since the mountain cannot grow, someday it will be level with the ground, and the sun will shine upon our land."

As we read the Bible, we are reminded that God's work often takes hundreds of years with each generation doing a little bit more until finally God's work is completed. The Hebrew writer tells us (11:13) that Abraham, Isaac and Jacob all received promises from God, but those promises were not fulfilled in their generations. They "pecked away" at the mountain one stroke at a time, and later generations received a multitude of blessings.

It is the reminder that we need in our "instant culture". We have got used to instant coffee, instant messengers, and a multitude of other products all designed to help us receive what we want as quickly as possible. The result is that when we pray for God's will to be done in our lives, we want it done within the next five minutes. There are great things to be achieved simply by laying a groundwork that succeeding generations can build on.

It is the reminder that we need when we tackle a task that seems to be endless. We need to tell ourselves that "the mountain cannot grow" and every chip we take out of the mountain makes it that much smaller, and in time, the mountain will be gone.

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." (I Cor. 15:58) Mike Thompson

A story is told about the noted director of biblical epics, Cecil B. DeMille. When they began working on the movie Ben Hur, DeMille talked to Charlton Heston -- the star of the movie -- about the all-important chariot race at the end. He decided Heston should actually learn to drive the chariot himself, rather than just using a stunt double. Heston agreed to take chariot-driving lessons to make the movie as authentic as possible.

Learning to drive a chariot with horses four abreast, however, was no small matter. After extensive work and days of practice, Heston returned to the movie set and reported to DeMille.

"I think I can drive the chariot all right, Cecil," said Heston, "but I'm not at all sure I can actually win the race."

Smiling slightly, DeMille said, "Heston, you just stay in the race, and I'll make sure you win."

That is such a great illustration of the spiritual race which we are all running as Christians. We are to run that race in such a way that we "win" because only the one who wins the race receives the prize at the end (I Cor. 9:24).

The thought of having to win the race seems a little unsettling to us until we realize that God says the same thing to us that DeMille said to Heston: "You just stay in the race and I'll make sure you win." Our responsibility as Christians is to run the race with endurance (Heb. 12:3), to never quit, never give up. If we do that, God will make sure that we "win."

"Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, to God our Saviour, who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen." (Jude 24-25)

Mike Thompson

The PCC met on Wednesday 15 November 2006 and the following matters were reported on, discussed and/or decided.

- Jacqueline Wheeler was elected as the Child Protection Coordinator.
- An invitation card to the covenant service on 7 January 2007 was approved. This is to be given to all on the Electoral Roll and anyone else who attends church. The Pathfinders are to remain in church for this covenant service. This will give us the opportunity to rededicate ourselves to Christ and his mission.
- Christ Church First School has requested that we consider putting on an after-school club. The PCC are willing to consider this if there is some staff involvement in the club.
- From December the midweek Tuesday service will take place weekly. It will be predominantly a communion service, but not always. In conjunction with this, a team of volunteers plan to open the church. The details of this proposal are yet to be drawn up.
- A representative(s) for Christ Church is being sought to attend Churches Together in Stone. The AGM is to be held on 14 January 2007 after the United Service at Manor Hill School. Further information is available from Mike Thompson.
- Problems with the Sanctuary floor lifting and causing a potential tripping hazard are to be investigated and remedial work carried out where appropriate.

The next PCC meeting is on Wednesday 17 January 2007.

ROADS FOR PRAYER

Please pray for people living in these streets of our parish

7th January

The Avenue
Trent Road
Tunley Street
Trinity Drive

14th January

Airdale Grove
Airdale Road
Airdale Spinney
Lotus Court, Cross Street

21st January

Nicholls Lane
Old Road, York Street
Old Road Close
Oulton Cross

28th January

Oulton Road
Oulton Mews
Princes Street
Queens Square



Mary Jones' Bible

The story of Mary Jones is quite well known, she was the young Welsh girl who, about 200 years ago, walked 26 miles from her home in Mid Wales to Bala to buy her first Bible. The story has also been set to music by Roger Jones,

called Greater Than Gold and was performed in Church several years ago. On a recent holiday Diana and I were keen to see where Mary had lived and on a beautiful autumn day found the cottage where she had spent her early life. The tiny cottage is now in ruins but there's a monument in the middle in memory of her and her achievement. The church where she worshipped was just a short walk away and there was a beautifully embroidered relief map of the valley, with Mary's route picked out in red. Mary spent the rest of her life close by and her grave lies in the village of Brynchrug further down the Dysynni valley. Mary's eagerness for a bible of her own at a time when they weren't readily available was to eventually lead to the setting up of what we know today as The Bible Society. Mary cherished her bible and we have many versions and formats to choose from so that we can do the same. There are various notes available to make reading and study of the bible easier and enjoyable. They can be purchased from the Christian bookshops in Hanley or Stafford or direct via phone or internet, it really couldn't be easier.

If you'd like more info or an idea of what's on offer please have a word with me.

Phil Tunstall.

FROM THE REGISTERS

BAPTISMS

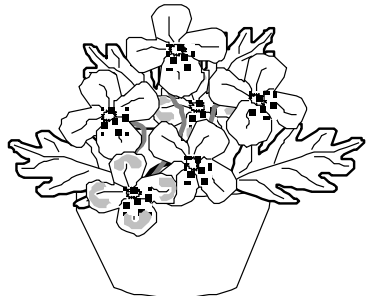
26th November Amelia Jane Ann Jones

SIDESPERSIONS FOR JANUARY

	AM	PM
7 th January	S. Hallam, D. Pickles J. Rowlands, T. MacFarlane	D. Shemilt
14 th January	D. Wilson, C. Wilding A. Greer, V. Ledward	P. Tunstall
21 st January	P. Tunstall, D. Pickles J. Rowlands, A. West	D. Shemilt
28 th January	P. Hipkiss, M. Hutchinson B. Hutchinson, S. Hallam	P. Tunstall

FLOWER ROTA

7 th	Flower Guild
14 th	Miss B. Sutcliffe
21 st	Mrs C. Jacques
28 th	Mrs J. Booth



Deanery Synod Reps	Mrs S Hallam, Mr I Hawley, Mr D. Rowlands	
P.C.C. Members	Mr J Challinor, Mrs B Guerrard, Mrs I Gassor Mr D Guerrard, Mrs M Hillman, Mrs E Mason, Mr P Mason, Mrs D Wilson, Mrs E Woodhead Mrs M. Hutchinson, Mrs E. Bell, Mrs S. Morray, Mrs S. Sanders	
Secretary	Jacqueline Abrahams.....	817020
Treasurer	Kevin Reynolds.....	851595
Envelopes, Gift Aid	Ian Hawley.....	811646

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

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.

Mon 1st **New Year’s Day** As we enter a new year, let us place our lives anew into the Lord’s hands and resolve to follow in His way.

TEARFUND

Prayer requests in the weekly World Watch Prayer Link include the following:

- Tue 2nd No firm decisions were made at the **Climate Change Conference** held in Nairobi in November. Tearfund called this a *‘regrettable failure of political will.’* There were some positives however, including steps taken towards setting up a special fund to help developing countries adapt to climate change. Pray that this fund will materialise at the 2007 conference and that leaders will press for **urgent** action to halt global warming.
- Wed 3rd Pray for another mild winter in the areas of **India, Pakistan and Kashmir** affected by the 2005 earthquake. Tens of thousands of people still have no homes and only one in four families have begun to rebuild. Give thanks for the work of Tearfund partners, educating communities in earthquake-proof building techniques. There are very few Christians in Kashmir; pray that the people will experience God’s love as Tearfund partners and relief teams serve them.
- Thu 4th Pray for ongoing peace negotiations between the **Ugandan** government and the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) Give thanks that the number of children who walk long distances at night to sleep in the towns has declined dramatically, and that many of the children who have left the LRA have received counselling and education and have been reunited with their parents. Pray for physical and spiritual healing for those who have suffered brutality during the conflict.
- Fri 5th Give thanks for the peace agreement signed between Maoist rebels and the government of **Nepal** bringing to an end ten years of Maoist insurgency. Pray that the two sides will be able to address human rights issues, as the UN has urged them to do. Pray for the safety of Tearfund partners as they travel around the country and plan for the future.
- Sat 6th Give thanks that the recent polling day in **Haiti** was peaceful. This was the fourth election in 2006. Pray that the elections will help to bring peace and democracy to the country, the poorest in the Americas, with a 70%

unemployment rate. Pray that those who have been elected will show wisdom and integrity in their decision making.

TIM & KATE LEE, Rebekah, James & Grace – PHILIPPINES

The Lee family are back into the thick of the work of Jigsaw Kids Ministries amongst street children and families in Manila. They are particularly thrilled at present in that Jigsaw Kids Ministries is now a registered charity in the UK. This means, amongst other things, that they can now claim Gift Aid on donations to the work made by taxpayers in the UK. (*Cecilia now has forms and information as to how we can support Jigsaw Ministries*) They ask prayer for the following:

- Sun 7th Pray for wisdom for Tim and the kids' workers in helping street families and children in dire need, that they may know how to help in each individual case. (*Today is Covenant Sunday*)
- Mon 8th Pray for some of the children they are particularly concerned about – Glenn, Pamela, Angelina, Bernado, Christina, Yasmin. They enjoy the clubs but return to extreme risk on the streets every day. Please pray that Tim and the team can work out the best way to help them.
- Tue 9th Just after they met two deaf children and wondered how they might help them, they met an American lady who has offered to teach sign language to the children, their families and friends and some of the Jigsaw workers. Pray that a place may be found for the teaching and that the children will be keen to learn.
- Wed 10th They are still in desperate need of money to operate. Just recently they had to put some parts of the ministry on hold through lack of finance. They need at least £350/week. (*See Cecilia as to how to help*)
- Thu 11th They have put in a proposal to a group called Geneva Global to fund a literacy project. Pray for their ideas to be accepted and funding released.

OWEN & TRACY HUMPHREYS, Ben, Steffan & Jonathan – S.INDIA

Owen e-mailed us recently with some of their prayer requests:

- Fri 12th They have two visitors coming from their church, one visiting for a few weeks from the middle of January, and the other coming as a volunteer for five months. Pray that they have a very special time at Hebron.
- Sat 13th They, and many others are travelling long distances often on not so safe vehicles and roads. Pray for safety.
- Sun 14th Ben is applying for universities and has to get "home status" as he has lived outside the UK. This can be a tricky business! Pray for success.

Mon 15th Pray for the whole family as the new term starts soon, that Owen & Tracy will have the wisdom and strength they need to do their work, the boys have the will work and play hard and make good friendships, and for harmony in the family and amongst staff and teachers.

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

Ralph sent through an update of the family's news in mid-November. The term at Hebron was nearing an end and they were looking forward to a "rest" from mid-December. They will all be together at Christmas.

Tue 16th Just when Ralph thought that the computer systems at the School were running fairly smoothly, he heard that the present e-mail system will have to be radically changed. A lot of work will be needed to change without losing e-mails. Pray for Ralph and his team as they do this work.

Wed 17th The present tenants in their house in Bromley were only staying there until January. Pray that new ones may be found quickly. Pray for the busy people who are managing the house while Ralph & Dagmar are away.

Thu 18th Both Ralph and Dagmar were feeling tired and worn out at the end of term, especially Dagmar who kept on picking up infections. Pray for them to be renewed mentally, physically and spiritually over the holiday time and return to the School ready for the new term.

Fri 19th Pray for Helen, studying in Paris this year, and for Sarah at the beginning of medical school, that they may find their studies challenging yet enjoyable. Pray for good fellowship that will stimulate them to grow in their faith and that they may be used to help others.

Sat 20th Their time on holiday involved a lot of travel. Pray for safety.

REBECCA – PAKISTAN

Rebecca wrote in early December. "I will be returning to the UK from Christmas to February. It will be a time to see family and friends and to share about some of the things that are happening here." (*Rebecca plans to be with us for our Morning Service on 11th February and the evening of Thursday 15th February for a shared supper and to do a presentation of her work*). She asks us to pray:

Sun 21st "For an easy adjustment to the UK and back to Pakistan again.

Mon 22nd For a good time with family and friends.

Tue 23rd For good and fruitful meetings while in the UK"

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

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

- Wed 24th 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.
- Thu 25th Stephen still has some health problems and is waiting for results of medical tests. Please pray that he will be able to overcome these problems.
- Fri 26th As the church in Dubrava looks to be financially independent of its mother church in Zagreb, please pray that the Dubrave church will be able to grow in numbers and in strength.
- Sat 27th The Dubrava church will celebrate its anniversary in February with events designed to draw in new people and make the church well-known in the area. Please pray that the celebrations will enthuse people to join in the work of the 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.

- Sun 28th Jonathan and Robinah are starting 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.
- Mon 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.
- Tue 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.
- Wed 31st Please continue to pray for the family's financial support. Christ Church has just received thanks for a gift sent recently by the church towards their support. It arrived just when it was urgently needed.