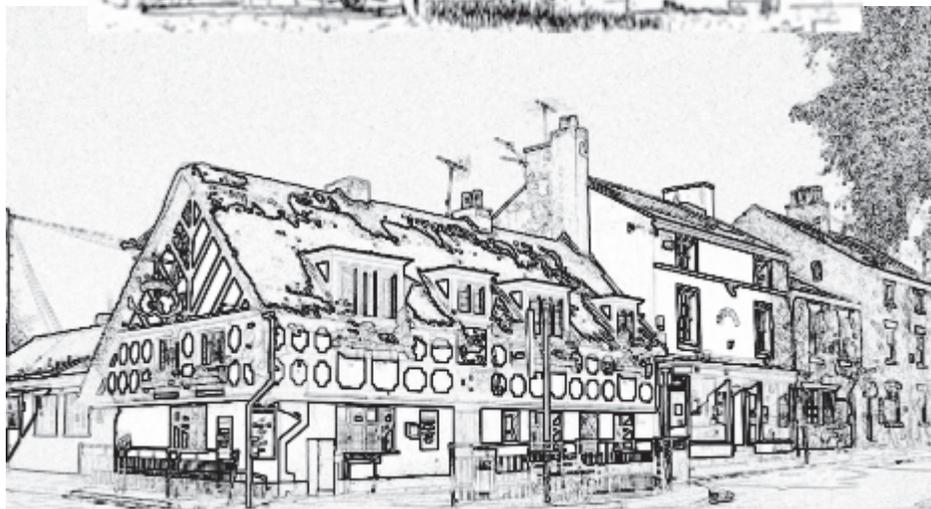


Christ Church and People

40p

Parish Magazine of
Christ Church Stone



December 2008

PARISH DIRECTORY

SUNDAY SERVICES

Details of our services are given on pages 2 and 3.

Young people's activities take place in the Centre at 9.15 am
(see page 17 for details)

THE PARISH TEAM

Vicar	Paul Kingman The Vicarage, Bromfield Court	812669
Curate	Tim Vasby-Burnie, 1 Navigation Loop Email tim@vasbyburnie.net	814244
Assistant Minister For Youth	Adam Rushton, 26 Victoria Street	813654
Electoral Roll Officer	Irene Gassor	814871
Parish Office Email	Christ Church Centre, Christ Church Way, Stone, Staffs ST15 8ZB christchurch.centre1@btinternet.com	811990
Deaconess (Retired)	Ann Butler	818160
Readers	David Bell John Butterworth David Rowlands Michael Thompson Cecilia Wilding	815775 817465 816713 813712 817987
Music Co-ordinators	Peter Mason Jeff Challinor	815854 819665
Wardens	Phil Tunstall David Rowlands	817028 816713
Deputy Wardens	Andy Stone, Arthur Foulkes, Tim Saxton	

CHRIST CHURCH CENTRE

Booking Secretary	Carole or Irene	(Office)	811990
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CHURCH SCHOOLS

Christ Church C.E.(Controlled) First School, Northesk Street.

Head: Mrs Lynne Croxall B.Ed.(Hons)	354125
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Christ Church 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 January magazine to us by 13th December. Please note this is two days earlier than normal, so that our magazine team don't have to work over Christmas!

Magazine subscriptions

A New Year approaches!

Please have your £4 subscription for 2009 ready when your magazine deliverer calls in January.

Cover Story:- The Crown and Anchor in snowy weather

December 2008

Mon	1	9:00am 9:00am 7:00pm	Ctis Day for Prayer and Praise Prayers for schools and young people Cornerstone for teenagers
Tue	2	9:30am 10:00am 10:30am 12:30pm 7:00pm 7:30pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before midweek service Midweek service Seekers Club at Christ Church Middle School Clergy chapter meeting Christ Church Youth Club
Wed	3		
Thu	4	1:20pm	Christ Church Middle School assembly
Fri	5		
Sat	6	8:30am 9:00am	Prayer meeting Breakfast in Church Centre
Sun	7	9:15am 6:00pm	Communion: Jeremiah 5:20-31 "A stubborn heart" Confirmation service at St Michael's Church
Mon	8	9:00am 7:00pm 7:45pm	Prayers for schools and young people Cornerstone for teenagers Coalport Drive Homegroup
Tue	9	9:30am 10:00am 10:30am 12:30pm 7:30pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before midweek service Midweek service Seekers Club at Christ Church Middle School Christ Church Youth Club
Wed	10		
Thu	11	1:20pm 8:00pm	Christ Church Middle School assembly Shallowford House prayer evening
Fri	12		
Sat	13		
Sun	14	9:15am 6:00pm	Morning Prayer: Jeremiah 7 "A self-deceived heart" Communion at Christ Church: Psalm 110 "The priest"
Mon	15	9:00am 2:30pm 7:00pm	Prayers for schools and young people Carols at Autumn House Cornerstone for teenagers

December 2008

Tue	16	9:30am 10:00am 10:30am 12:30pm 7:30pm	Prayers for schools and young people Coffee before midweek service Midweek service Seekers Club at Christ Church Middle School Christ Church Youth Club
Wed	17	9:30am 7:00pm	Men's meeting Christ Church First School Christmas service
Thu	18	1:20pm	Christ Church Middle School assembly
Fri	19		
Sat	20	TBA 4:00pm	Carols in the Square -CTiS Christingle at Christ Church
Sun	21	9:15am 5:00pm	Communion: Jeremiah 10 "An idolatrous heart" Carol Service
Mon	22	9:00am	Prayers for schools and young people
Tue	23	10:00am 10:30am	Coffee before midweek service Midweek service
Wed	24	11:00pm	Communion: "Isaiah 42:1-9 "The servant"
Thu	25	9:15am	Family communion: Jeremiah 23:5-6 "A righteous branch"
Fri	26		
Sat	27		
Sun	28	10:00am	Benefice Family service: Jeremiah 29 "A seeking heart"
Mon	29	9:00am	Prayers for schools and young people
Tue	30	10:00am 10:30am	Coffee before midweek service Midweek service
Wed	31		

Learning contentment

Christmas traditions include the decorating of houses with tinsel and lights, the office party, the carol singers visit, the food we enjoy, buying gifts to exchange, sending cards with seasons greetings, the visiting of family members, the special services at church (hoping to see you!), in which we remember that the real Christmas story concerns the birth of Jesus Christ who came into the world to save sinners.

However, the economic chill may cause us to grit our teeth and shudder as we wonder about the affordability of our celebrations whilst the persuasive shop windows entice us to spend. But there is another way.

Contentment is a strong theme in the Bible: it is about being satisfied with what we have, lives within our means, curbing our natural desire for more or for what others have. Here's a short extract of Christian teaching on contentment: *'but godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs'* (1 Tim 6v6-10). The love of money (not money itself) is something that can affect both rich and poor alike as they strive to have just a little bit more. Elsewhere the apostle Paul speaks about how he'd learnt contentment in all circumstances: *'whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want'* (Philippians 4v12). For Paul the key to learning contentment was to put his trust in Jesus: the true and sovereign Lord of everything. We're to give thanks for all that he has entrusted to our use and look to him to provide all that we need.

This is summarised elsewhere: *'Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, because God has said – "never will I leave you, never will I forsake you"'* (Hebrews 13v5). This Christmas do come and join us in giving thanks to God for his wonderfully generous gift of the Lord Jesus Christ who has made this promise real, in that he was, and is, God with us.

Paul Kingman.



Happy Topsy-Turvy Christmas!

My American Grandmother was a child during the Great Depression of 1929. One Christmas her present was an apple. My memories of her focus on her generosity, her bottomless cookie jar and an uncomplaining spirit.

Many children today will receive hundreds of pounds worth of computer games, toys and clothes. I'm too young to be a Grumpy Old Man, but I cannot help consider whether or not they will grow up to be quite so generous or positive.

No one would want a return to the Great Depression, yet surely we must ask ourselves if our value system has gone astray. What values do we want to instill in our children, either ourselves or through schools? What makes a good Christmas “good”?

Recently some curates had a training day on Time Management. The highlights were not the practical tips but the occasional comment thrown in as the speaker reflected on years of assisting churches and Christian missions. Many churches have “Values” that underpin all activity, but the speaker said most of these statements of values were rubbish. None he had seen were as radical as the values Jesus proclaimed. He dared us, in our churches, to take Jesus' values on board!

Luke's account of Jesus' birth reveals the sort of values God has. They are topsy-turvy values: The King of all Creation sleeps in a manger; Angels tell the news first to Shepherds, the type hardly ever seen in their local synagogue. Mary's song (the Magnificat) tells us what God is like:

“He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.”
(Luke 1:52-53)

What choices will we make, this Christmas, to show that Jesus is at the centre? Obviously we will want to gather with other believers to worship Jesus, but let us *never* reduce a Jesus-centred Christmas to church going! How will we lift up the humble? Who will we feed? How will we teach our children the story of Christmas and train them to share Jesus' values?

By the standards of the world, Jesus' values are upside down – they run counter to our natural inclination. By God's standards, however, following Jesus means putting a broken world back together. So: Have a Happy (topsy-turvy) Christmas!

Tim Vasby-Burnie

P.S. If you want to see a useful list of Jesus' values, I dare you to visit
<http://www.john-truscott.co.uk/resources/training/tn25.pdf>

Christmas Services at Christ Church

Saturday 20th

4.00 p.m. Christmas crafts and Christingle service

An informal time of craft activities for children with their parents, followed by a short service in which we remember Jesus coming as the light of the world.

Sunday 21st

9.15 a.m. Holy Communion

We continue the build up to Christmas by thinking about how having a life that centres on Jesus brings great blessing.

5.00 p.m. Carol service

We celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ through music and the Words of scripture. This service is followed by a hot drink and mince pies.

Christmas Eve.

11.00 p.m. Late night service of carols & Holy Communion.

A candlelight service in which we remember that Jesus Christ was born to be the Saviour of the world.

Christmas Day.

9.15 a.m. Christmas celebration

A joyful service for all the family with Holy Communion.

Advanced notices

Sun 7th January 2009

Covenant service – an opportunity to remember the Lord Jesus' commitment to us and to dedicate ourselves to his service for the new year.

Easter 09:

The Knight's Quest holiday club for children.

Harvest Offering

A big thank you to all those who contributed towards the £638.07 which has recently been sent off to Tearfund to assist those with little or no Harvest to celebrate.

St Luke's Hospital for the Clergy

(Christ Church gives an annual donation from its charitable giving fund to St Luke's Hospital for the Clergy. The existence of the Hospital means that, should Paul or Tim require specialist and/or hospital treatment, they can have it speedily from experts and be back on the job all the sooner. The facilities are also available for their families.)

The following article about St Luke's Hospital is taken from an information sheet recently received from the Hospital:

'In 1948, 60 years ago, the National Health Service was introduced. Before that, if you were ill, you paid for treatment or used one of the philanthropic hospitals, or some larger cities had municipal hospitals. In 1900 there were 2,600 charitable hospitals. Today less than 80 remain, among them St Luke's Hospital for the Clergy.

This is not a private hospital for the clergy; the Hospital is a **Christian charity** which makes no charges to Clergy patients and operates with a unique charter with the Department of Health. The Hospital is not part of the NHS but relies on its facilities for x-ray and pathology. St Luke's is one of the last real charity hospitals in the country or, as an ex-patient from overseas said "the Hospital is a gift to be cherished", supported by donations, legacies and other charitable sources.

An ex-patient from overseas to a UK charitable hospital? St Luke's has a remit to serve **all** the Anglican Clergy and, as the communion has spread, so has the remit. A proportion of our patients come from overseas – South America, Africa, Eastern Europe and Asia. For these patients, with no NHS to fall back on, the Hospital really is a matter of life or death.

St Luke's can also help the immediate family members of the Clergy.

For 100 years, Consultants from local hospitals have come to St Luke's and given skills and time, at no charge, to support the Clergy. In the first year open, we had 26; we now have around 200 Consultants from all specialties. It is immensely gratifying to report that Muslims, Hindus and Jewish consultants, along with many different Christian denominations, come to the Hospital and work together in a spirit of co-operation and dedication. We also have Psychiatric Consultants who work for us around the country to offer Clergy much needed support.

(continued on page 9)

The Hospital has recently undergone essential redevelopment work and re-opened in 2007 with much improved facilities. The Hospital has two operating theatres, a 2-bed recovery unit, short stay rooms, consulting rooms, a 24-hour Resident Medical Officer and Physiotherapy facilities.

As well as surgery, the honorary consultants – most from top teaching hospitals and distinguished in their specialities – provide top level first or second opinions for hundreds of clergy patients each year, to help them seek timely treatment through speedy and accurate diagnosis.

The NHS has improved greatly, but St Luke's proves there is still a need for a hospital that offers clergy the chance to be seen and treated speedily within a caring Christian setting. We are here for the clergy and their dependents – to make sure they are fit to help others.

St Luke's Hospital for the Clergy – a gift of the laity to the clergy.'

Cecilia Wilding

Christmas Concert

STONE CHORAL SOCIETY

THURSDAY 18th DECEMBER

Stone Choral Society will be performing their Christmas Concert in Christ Church on Thursday 18th December at 7.30 pm. The concert will include carols and readings.

Tickets are available from Peter Plant Jewellers, Wikijum, 01785
813978 or on line at tickets@stonechoral.org.uk

News from Tim and Kate Lee

The 5 Key foundations of Jigsaw's Family Centres: Security, Boundaries, Significance, Community and Creativity.

(An excerpt from Tim & Kate Lees' October 2008 Jigsaw News – look in the red folder on the cupboard under the Overseas Mission notice board in the Centre for a complete copy and ask Cecilia if you would like your own copy)

Back in 2003 not long after the Lee family arrived in Manila to help start a street kids ministry, Tim Lee went to a conference in the Philippines entitled 'Understanding God's heart for children.' The conference was led by Dr Keith White who runs Milgrove children's home in London with his wife, Ruth.

During the conference, Dr Keith White outlined the five key essential foundations that are needed for Love to grow.

Security: bonding, attachment and particularly the experience of "being held".

Boundaries: predictability, discipline, patterns, routines, space, privacy, safety.

Significance: I -Thou, respect, reciprocity, self-worth, esteem and identity.

Community: associations, clubs and groups beyond the initial significant others.

Creativity: life, spontaneity, dance, colours, rhythms, play.

Tim's own vision and beliefs connected so overwhelmingly with what he heard that since then Jigsaw and all its projects and centres have been built and developed around these five key foundations.

It's now five years since Keith White's message and we can honestly say that Love is growing. The action plan for success of Jigsaw is to 'Love one another' and the results of this are seen in the transforming of individuals. Kids and staff who once thought themselves worthless and useless, are beginning to see themselves as precious children of God with a hope and a future.

Transformation doesn't come easily and loving unconditionally can often be interpreted as being 'weak' or a 'pushover' by many in society. The lives of the majority of the children that Jigsaw works with are horrendously broken and abused. For these children the only way they can understand God's heart of Love for them is to experience it.

(continued on next page)

Rico, a boy on our sponsorship programme, broke the rules on numerous occasions and nearly everyone wrote him off as a “bad boy” who couldn’t change and didn’t deserve to be sponsored. Tim though, decided on each occasion to reprimand him but also offered him forgiveness and the chance to try again. It wasn’t until Rico had broken the rules several times that he began to realize that Jigsaw was sticking by him ‘no matter what’. The security and love that this gave to Rico has enabled him to change beyond recognition. The boy that was once written off by his teachers, is now a source of amazement by his obvious turn around. Love is not just a nice thing, it’s the most powerful tool that God has given us.

Dr Keith White has recently written a book entitled ‘The Growth of Love’ where these five key foundations are discussed more in depth. **Read it** – it may change your church’s children’s ministry forever.

President Barack Obama

After a seemingly endless campaign, Barack Obama has been elected to be the 44th President of the United States of America. Our newspapers and televisions have been full of images of queuing voters and cheering crowds, as well as endless speculation about what this will mean for America and the rest of the world.

I don't think anyone can doubt that this was a highly significant election. People loved the message of change – and that voice must be heard. We must give thanks also that this marks a significant step forward in race relations in the US.

However, I am very concerned that Christians in the UK have not seen the full picture. Many Christians in the US were deeply opposed to an Obama win, but the mainline media has simply ignored the issues that led to such concerns.

The primary issue is that of abortion. No doubt there will be a variety of opinion on this matter among magazine readers. And of course the first thing to say is that Christianity is not about imposing a moral code on others, but about forgiveness and new life in Christ. However, Christianity insists on the sanctity of human life. Humans are created in the image of God. Some abortions take place in terrible circumstances (e.g. rape or to save the mother's life). But the vast majority are for social reasons: a pregnancy and child would be “inconvenient” so the unborn baby is murdered. This is a tragedy on a colossal scale. And here's the problem: Barack Obama views on abortion are extremely bad.

(continued on next page)

“Extreme” is the right word to use:

“Barack Obama is the most extreme pro-abortion candidate ever to seek the office of President of the United States. He is the most extreme pro-abortion member of the United States Senate. Indeed, he is the most extreme pro-abortion legislator ever to serve in either house of the United States Congress.”

This is the carefully considered opinion of Robert P George, McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence at Princeton University (simply one of an impressive list of posts he has held). Obama has promised that “the first thing I’d do as President is sign the Freedom of Choice Act”. This would make abortion a federally guaranteed right through all nine months of pregnancy for any reason. He opposes the ban on the horrific practice of partial-birth abortion, in which a baby is partially-born (feet first, with the head remaining in the birth canal) before the brain is suctioned out causing the skull to collapse. Obama wants to strip federal funding from pro-life crisis pregnancy centers that provide alternatives to abortion. He has opposed legislation to protect children who are born alive following an unsuccessful abortion, instead of leaving them to die (something that happens in this country too).

There are other reasons why many Christians opposed Obama, some ethical, some economic, some political. It is a shame that these reasons have not been made apparent in our own press.

We must pray for Obama and the tough choices he will make. American Christians need to repent where they have overlooked the Republican Party's failure to reduce abortion levels significantly. The solution is not politics, although there are battles still to be fought and won. No, the solution is to trust Jesus and live in his strength, to proclaim the gospel and love our neighbours. More important than campaigning is the need to demonstrate that following Jesus really does produce a radically different lifestyle: looking after orphans and the elderly, the poor and the troubled; providing extended families for those don't have abortions; demonstrating grace to those who do. That is an authentic pro-life position, and ultimately will be more powerful than whatever President Obama does.

Tim Vasby-Burnie

For some good post-election reading, check the links at <http://vasbyburnie.net/2008/11/15/some-election-round-up/>

Christingle

I always look forward to the Christingle service held at Christ Church every year. The sight of 70 or more children singing, whilst holding their lighted Christingles, in the darkened church is wonderful.

The idea for the Christingle came from Moravian Pastor John de Watteville in 1747, he wanted a simple symbol to make the meaning of Christmas fresh and lively for the children of his church. He gave a lighted candle, to every child, wrapped in a red ribbon to represent Jesus the Light of the World.

The Christingle, meaning Christlight, was introduced in the UK in 1967 by the Children's Society. I have heard several slightly different interpretations but the one the Moravian church say is the closest to the original is the one we tell the children when they make their own Christingle before the service.

The orange represents the Earth, created and loved by God.

The candle represents Jesus the Light of the World.

The red ribbon represents Jesus' blood shed for the sins of the world.

The four sticks represent the four seasons, meaning God provides
for us all the time.

The fruit or sweets are the good fruits of the earth provided by God.

This year the Christingle will be held on Saturday 20th December. There will be children's craft and Christingle making in Christ Church Centre from 4.00 - 4.30 pm followed by the Christingle service in Church at 4.30 - 5.00pm.

Refreshments will be served in the church centre afterwards. There is no charge. Everyone is welcome.

Estella Woodhead

Bible reading notes

Just imagine if we only ate one day a week and saved all our food to eat at a single meal! Nutritionists and doctors would form a queue to tell us how bad that would be for our health- perhaps we would not even stay alive on one meal a week, no matter how big that meal might be. Yet we are more ready to confine our prayer and bible study to just one day, and maybe even just the one-hour period between 9:15 and 10:15 on a Sunday morning. Is that enough for us to stay alive, no matter how good the content of that hour?

A balanced diet of prayer and bible reading will improve our spiritual health enormously!

Scripture Union will email you a bible passage each day, and iTunes fans can receive a free podcast every week containing readings from the bible. Its quite surprising how many Christian techies there are! SU also has PrayerLive, which shows short prayer requests every day from people who use the website.

If you like to have traditional bible notes printed on real paper, there is a range of these, “Daily Bread” being the most well-known, but SU also produces “Closer to God”, “Snapshots” (8-10 age range), “Submerge” (11-14 age range), and “Encounter with God”. These notes all contain a daily bible passage, explanatory notes and suggestions for prayer. They can be ordered from the SU website, or found in all good Christian bookshops, prices range from about £3 to £5 per quarter.

The Good Book company also supplies notes including the “Explore” notes (£12 for a year’s subscription – you can order these notes by phone on 0845 225 0880).

United Christian Broadcasters (UCB) in Hanchurch produce bible reading notes which they will send free of charge – phone 0845 6040401 or look on their website. They also have a Prayerline.

Nearer to home, Adam Rushton brings us a weekly reading list of bible passages, available from church. So, there isn’t any good excuse for us if we don’t read our bible during the week! We should all have a bible at home (though I do know one Christian writer and academic who borrowed a bible from the local lending library on more or less permanent loan).

All these bible reading notes tend to run on an annual cycle, with new issues every 2 or 3 months, so make sure that you are equipped with one of them on January 1st.

Dave Bell

ROADS FOR PRAYER

7th December

Bromfield Court
 Dominic Court
 Granville Terrace
 King's Avenue

14th December

Longton Road
 Margaret Street
 Newcastle Road
 Newcastle Street



21st December

Northesk Street
 Radford Close
 Radford Street
 Station Road

28th December

The Avenue
 Trent Road
 Tunley Street
 Trinity Drive

3rd Stone (Christ Church) Brownies

3rd Stone Brownies meet on Monday evenings during term time at Christ Church First School, Northesk Street from 6.00pm – 7.30pm.

We welcome girls from the age of 7 up to 10+ and provide a variety of experiences within a safe environment that is not education based – each child achieves their best with no academic pressure. We take part in local community parades i.e. Remembrance, Thinking Day and Stone Festival. We join with other groups for outdoor activities and Pack Holidays.

If you would like to know more please contact me Janet Smith – Guider in Charge on 01785 815939 or 07817938588, I do work fulltime so evenings are best.

The best Bank?

Overheard countless times in the last two months: "I am concerned about the poor performance of my investments and savings."

Not heard even one time in the last two decades: "I am concerned about my poor performance in laying up treasure in heaven."

 Dan Edelen at <http://ceruleansanctum.com/2008/11/moths-rust.html>

FROM THE REGISTERS

BAPTISM

2nd November Emilie Elaine Hazlehurst

FUNERALS

16th October [Bradwell Crematorium]
Helga Ann-Marie Hildegaard Deere Aged 62

SIDESPERSIONS ROTA

	<u>Morning</u>	<u>Evening</u>	
7th December	C. Wilding V. Ledward	D. Pickles K. Thompson	
14th December	J. Rowlands A. Greer	D. Wilson C. Wilding	D. Shemilt
21st December	G. Holden T. MacFarlane	B. Hutchinson M. Hutchinson	P. Tunstall D. Shemilt
24th December			P. Tunstall D. Rowlands
25th December	D. Davies A. West	J. Abrahams I. Gassor	
28th December	D. Pickles P. Hipkiss	K. Thompsons J. Rowlands	

FLOWER ROTA

7th December	Flower Guild
14th December	Flower Guild
21st December	Christmas
28th December	Flower Guild



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

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 J Abrahams, Mr K Reynolds, Mr A Stone Mrs M Garrington-Miller, Mr G Holden, Mrs D Davies
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
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 Circle	Jeanette Rowlands.....816713
Pastoral Care Group	Ann Butler.....818160
Parents & Toddlers (Mon 9.30 – 11.15am)	Sandra Morray.....286093
Friday "Little Fishes" (Fri 11am – 1.30pm)	Cecilia Wilding.....817987

Young People's Activities take place in the Centre during the Sunday morning service except on the fourth Sunday in the month, which is the family service.

Climbers 3-7 years **Explorers** 7-11 years **Pathfinders** 11-14 years

The following activities take place every week week in the Centre during term time.

Monday Toddlers 9.30 am **Friday Little Fishes** 11.00 am

THE MAGAZINE TEAM

Mission News& Prayer Diary Cecilia Wilding 817987

Please send material for the magazine to

Dave Bell, c/o Christ Church Parish Office, Christ Church Way,
Staffs ST15 8ZB or by email to christchurch_mag@yahoo.co.uk

Christ Church 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