

# Christ Church and People

Parish Magazine of  
Christ Church Stone

40p



# December 2009

# PARISH DIRECTORY

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## 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 inside back page for details)

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## THE PARISH TEAM

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

## CHRIST CHURCH CENTRE

|                          |               |          |        |
|--------------------------|---------------|----------|--------|
| <b>Booking Secretary</b> | Kate or Irene | (Office) | 811990 |
|--------------------------|---------------|----------|--------|

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## CHURCH SCHOOLS

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| Christ Church C.E.(Controlled) First School, Northesk Street.<br>Head: Mrs Lynne Croxall B.Ed.(Hons) | 354125 |
| Christ Church C.E.(Aided) Middle School, Old Road<br>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 15th Dec.

Another year approaches! We hope that you would like to receive this magazine in 2010; if you pay your magazine distributor in January, the 12 copies will cost just £4.

**Cover Story:- A new plane for Mission Aviation Fellowship. See Phil Tunstall at the controls on page 13!**

### Subscriptions

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

# December 2009

|     |    |  |   |
|-----|----|--|---|
| Tue | 1  | 9:30am<br>10:00am<br>1:00pm<br>3:45pm<br>7:30pm  | Christ Church First School assembly<br>Coffee before midweek service- service at 10:30am<br>Churches Together Prayer Meeting<br>Lighthouse Club years 3-5<br>Christ Church Youth Club years 12-13 |
| Wed | 2  |  |   |
| Thu | 3  | 1:20pm<br>7:00pm                                 | Christ Church Middle School assembly<br>Rock Youth Club years 9-11  |
| Fri | 4  | 10:00am<br>6:30pm                                | Friday Fellowship<br>Breathe years 6-8  |
| Sat | 5  | 8:30am   | Prayer meeting followed by breakfast  |
| Sun | 6  | 9:15am<br>6:00pm                                 | Communion. Habakkuk 3:1-15 "Watch. God acts"<br>Evening Prayer at Christ Church<br>Luke 1:26-38 "He came as King"   |
| Mon | 7  | 7:00pm   | Cornerstone   |
| Tue | 8  | 9:30am<br>10:00am<br>12:30pm<br>3:45pm<br>7:30pm | Christ Church First School assembly<br>Coffee before midweek service- service at 10:30am<br>Seekers Club<br>Lighthouse Club years 3-5<br>Christ Church Youth Club years 12-13                     |
| Wed | 9  |  |   |
| Thu | 10 | 1:20pm<br>7:00pm<br>7:00pm                       | Christ Church Middle School assembly<br>Rock Youth Club years 9-11<br>Christ Church Middle School concert (at the school)   |
| Fri | 11 | 10:00am<br>6:30pm                                | Friday Fellowship<br>Breathe years 6-8  |
| Sat | 12 | 7:00pm   | An Evening in Advent - Christ Church Centre   |
| Sun | 13 | 9:15am<br>6:00pm                                 | Morning Prayer. Habakkuk 3:16-19 "Worship God"<br>Communion at Christ Church<br>Luke 1:39-56 "He came as Saviour"   |
| Mon | 14 | 2:00pm<br>6:30pm<br>7:00pm<br>7:30pm             | Carols at Autumn House<br>Christ Church First School service (in church)<br>Cornerstone<br>Deanery Synod  |

# December 2009

|     |    |                                       |   |
|-----|----|---------------------------------------|---|
| Tue | 15 | 9:30am<br>10:00am<br>3:45pm<br>7:30pm | Christ Church First School assembly<br>Coffee before midweek service- service at 10:30am<br>Lighthouse Club years 3-5<br>Christ Church Youth Club years 12-13 |
| Wed | 16 |                                       |   |
| Thu | 17 | 6:00pm<br>7:00pm                      | Stone Choral Society<br>Rock Youth Group years 12-13  |
| Fri | 18 | 10:00am<br>11:00am<br>6:30pm          | Friday Fellowship<br>Christ Church Middle School Christmas service (in church)<br>Breathe years 6-8   |
| Sat | 19 | 4:00pm                                | Christingle Service (in church)   |
| Sun | 20 | 9:15am<br>5:00pm                      | Communion. Acts 13:13-43 "Warning. Believe"<br>Carol Service at Christ Church.<br>Luke 1:67-80 "He came as Lord"  |
| Mon | 21 |                                       |   |
| Tue | 22 | 10:00am                               | Coffee before midweek service: service at 10:30am   |
| Wed | 23 |                                       |   |
| Thu | 24 | 11:00pm                               | Christmas Eve. Communion.<br>2 John "He came as Lord"   |
| Fri | 25 | 9:15am                                | Christmas Day. Communion<br>Luke 2:1-20 "Angels sang Glory"   |
| Sat | 26 |                                       |   |
| Sun | 27 | 10:00am                               | Family Service. Luke 2:29-32 "Simeon gave praise"   |
| Mon | 28 |                                       |   |
| Tue | 29 | 10:00am                               | Coffee before midweek service: service at 10:30am   |
| Wed | 30 |                                       |   |
| Thu | 31 |                                       |   |

Numbers after clubs refer to school years, not ages.

## Christmas: Bah, humbug?

‘A Christmas Carol’ has been animated. Apparently it makes the darker bits darker and the slapstick funnier. The main character Ebenezer Scrooge is known for his now famous comment on Christmas: “Bah, humbug!” To be accused of being a Scrooge is to know that you’re out of step with the mood of the moment and deeply lost in your private but miserable little world. Scrooge considers Christmas to be an inconvenient intrusion. But all this changes due to the visit of three ghosts of Christmas past, present and future. His own mean-spirited approach stands in stark contrast to the family of Bob Cratchet, his employee, who leads a simple life and cares for a sick son. Scrooge is made to face up to his own selfish existence and doesn’t like the consequences. The truth proves to be powerful and life changing.

It is the power of the truth that is at the heart of Christmas. The spirit of Christmas is not generated by a whiff of mulled wine, the sound of crackers being pulled and wrapping paper being torn to reveal a present. At the heart of Christmas is Jesus Christ who makes us face up to our own selfish existence, which ends in gloom. It is this truth that is powerful and life changing.

In the New Testament we read a profound sentence about the coming of Jesus: *‘That which was from the beginning, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched – this we proclaim concerning the word of life’* (I John 1v1). Christians unashamedly proclaim the wonder of Jesus’ birth that is to be celebrated at Christmas. The fact that God came as the man Jesus Christ to be seen, touched and heard is truly astounding. It is He who is the word of life. He embodies the fullness of life and gives this life to all who give themselves to Him. This powerful truth is life changing, as it brings with it the future hope of rescue for heaven. This is aptly expressed in one of the Christmas carols: ‘And our eyes at last shall see Him, through his own redeeming love; for that Child, so dear and gentle, is our Lord in heaven above; and He leads His children on to the place where He is gone’ [*Once in Royal David’s City* by H.J. Gauntlett].

I look forward to meeting you at one of the Christmas services where we rejoice in the wonder of the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. I hope that this will be the centre of your Christmas celebrations.

Paul Kingman



## The Gospel in Creation (6) – Stars

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This is the last in my series looking at (a small fraction of) the many ways creation speaks of Jesus. God wants us to know our Bibles so well that we can look around us and understand the messages God has woven into his created world.

With Christmas getting closer, what better to think about than stars? Stars are very significant in the Bible. So much so that Satan tries to lead us astray by making us think the stars are about us (astrology) rather than Jesus.

The wise men followed a star to find Jesus in Bethlehem. How did they know to do this? Probably from Numbers 24:17 where Balaam prophesies the coming of Jesus with these words: “I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near. A star will come out of Jacob, a sceptre will rise out of Israel.” What a good idea, therefore, to top our Christmas trees with a bright star! It is a reminder that Jesus, the star from Jacob, has arrived and that he rules from on high.

Stars also speak of God's people. Abraham was promised that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars in the sky (Genesis 15:5). Stars shine in the darkness, and we can “shine like stars in the universe” as we “hold out the word of life” (Philippians 2:15-16). Again, this makes our Christmas trees so much more exciting. The lights on a tree resemble stars in the night sky; as you hang the lights why not pray that followers of Jesus will shine like stars as we tell people the message of life.

It gets better. Trees remind us of Jesus' death (he was hung on the 'tree' of the cross). So we end up with:

- A bright star at the top of a tree tells us that Jesus is the highest authority in all the world.
- Jesus' rule and authority flows from the fact that he hung on a cross for us.
- Smaller 'stars' shine in the darkness reminding us to shine with Jesus' message

Enjoy Christmas. Revel in Jesus. Shine like stars. Let's light up the darkness this year with the life-giving message of God's love.

## What is the mark of the Christian?

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We're just getting to the season when the papers like to report on local councils who, out of concern for ethnic minorities, have banned Christmas in favour of Winterval or another silly name. This year that kind of story is likely to be more than matched by stories of big firms sacking those people who want to wear a cross or a fish lapel badge or some other sign of the Christian faith. It is sheer ignorance of course.

Ethnic minorities are far more anxious about the rampant secularism and commercialism that erodes all Christian standards than they are about their host country properly celebrating its Christian foundations. No one goes to a Muslim country and expects local councils to silence the mosques out of sensitivity to Christians. The Christian roots to our governance should not be nibbled away without discussion. Sometimes I think it wouldn't be a bad thing if in December we all wore a fish badge or cross necklace and sent out a loud message that Christians aren't going to disappear quietly from the market place or put away our crib figures in a hurry (Though personally I am waiting for someone to invent a retractable fish badge before I put one on the back of the car — my driving is not always something to be proud of).

Recently I shared in a mission weekend in an urban parish in this diocese. The church had thrown open its doors to the wider community and schools, uniformed organisations and many others had come along to take part in the events. There was the wonderful atmosphere of a praying church at the heart of the community. During the Harvest Festival service on the Sunday two newish Christians were interviewed; both of them said that they had joined the church because they had come along as a result of a back-to-church Sunday invitation and similar and had been overwhelmed by the open welcome, the practical help and the sustained friendship they had received. I was reminded of another church and someone saying that they had come to faith because the joyful and self-giving way the people looked after the children in the Sunday School had so touched them that they knew God was real.

What I have discovered afresh this month is that the mark of a real Christian community is not so much the lapel badges and crosses we wear as the spontaneous, generous and practical love we show to the world. Christians should not be intimidated into putting away their neck crosses or lapel badges, but in the end these are not the badges that matter. The mark that matters is far more challenging.

*Jonathan Gledhill*

## Christmas Services 2009

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### Christ Church Stone

|                           |          |                       |
|---------------------------|----------|-----------------------|
| Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> | 4.00 pm  | Craft and Christingle |
| Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup>   | 9.15 am  | Holy Communion        |
|                           | 5.00 pm  | Carol Service         |
| Christmas Eve.            | 11.00 pm | Holy Communion.       |
| Christmas Day.            | 9.15 am  | Family Communion.     |

### All Saints Moddershall

|                         |          |                |
|-------------------------|----------|----------------|
| Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> | 8.00 pm  | Carol Service  |
| Christmas Eve           | 11.00 pm | Holy Communion |

### St John's Oulton.

|                         |          |                  |
|-------------------------|----------|------------------|
| Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> | 5.00pm   | Christingle      |
| Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> | 11.00 am | Holy Communion   |
|                         | 7.00 pm  | Carol Service    |
| Christmas Day           | 11.00 am | Family Communion |

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## Advance notice for January 2010

We will hold a covenant service on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2010. The purpose of this service is to remember God's covenant faithfulness to His people and in the light of this to joyfully recommit ourselves to the Lord for the year to come. We will have a guest speaker Revd Tim Hanson (from Winsford) who will also be visiting us in March as part of our celebration and sharing of faith in 'A Passion For Life.'

*Radio Stoke* will be present to record the service for subsequent broadcast. Do put this date in your diary and plan to attend so that we make a joyful noise. Further details will be in the January 2010 magazine.

Paul Kingman

## ***"LIVING WITH HOPE"***

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### *A Scientist looks at Advent, Christmas and Epiphany"*

What will you be reading during Advent? I asked myself this question a few days ago. Shall I go and visit the Christian Bookshop and see what's on offer? .... Or..... why not take a quick look along our bookshelves and see what's already there - which is what I actually did. And I discovered the above book (from several years back, which I had totally forgotten about).

Its written by John Polkinghorne who was a Professor of Mathematical Physics at Cambridge and went on to be ordained in the Church of England. This means that he brings a scientist's perspective and understanding of the natural world when he talks about Christian belief - and I find that both interesting and helpful.

As he says in his introduction, too often Advent gets overlooked in our rush to get to Christmas, and that is a great loss, because used aright, Advent can help us face reality and prepare us for Christmas.

Traditionally Advent thinking centred on "The Four Last Things": death, judgement, heaven and hell - perhaps the four last topics that anyone would want to introduce into polite conversation today! And if you think that sounds very heavy and dismal - then look again at the book's title. The author has a profound conviction of Christian hope, arising from our perception of the steadfast faithfulness of God.

Sally Vaughan

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## **Church Notice Sheet Bloopers**

22 members were present at the church meeting held at the home of Mrs. Marsha Crutchfield last evening. Mrs. Crutchfield and Mrs. Rankin sang a duet, The Lord Knows Why.

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What is hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.

(Several of you were kind enough to send me these, which can be found among many others on the "Church Bloopers" website")

## **Rediscovering the heart of Healing**

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On 22<sup>nd</sup> October Jeanette and I attended the 'John Young Foundation' Annual Lecture in the Learning Centre at St. George's Hospital. The speaker was Revd. Dr. Russ Parker, director of the 'Acorn Christian Healing Foundation' and author who talked about the need to *"Rediscover the heart of healing"*

Russ opened by outlining the huge importance of focused listening reminding us that *"when you listen to people they often hear Jesus speaking to them"*.

The remainder of the time was spent answering the question, *"What turns a meeting into a therapeutic encounter?"* using examples to illustrate the points throughout.

Firstly, he said that 'at the very heart of Jesus Christ in action is a huge commitment to listening'. Jesus-connected very-well through listening, He was a therapeutic listener. Using incidents in John 5 and 9 and in Mark 8 and 10 he explained how all had the same problem but that the healing process was different in each case as Jesus engaged each person in a different but appropriate way.

Secondly, Jesus was 'moved with compassion'. There are many words for compassion used in the bible but when Jesus uses it, it is always the word for 'indignance' - not with the person but with the weight and pain of the person's distress. Jesus' compassion means that he connected with people where they were. Russ stressed the importance of knowing what we are about when dealing with others saying that it is 'far better to do nothing well, than to do something badly', leaving people in a worse state.

Complementary medicine is now so popular because time is given to the individual, it is not rushed; because tenderness is involved in getting to know the person and because touch is important. These values are now less evident in the mainstream where it seems to 'hit the target even if you miss the patient' is the order of the day. Indeed Jesus' name Jeshua in Hebrew means 'give space to someone'

Russ then responded to a number of wide ranging questions relating to his lecture.

Dave Rowlands

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### **Another Church Bulletin Blooper**

Barbara remains in the hospital and needs blood donors for more transfusions. She is also having trouble sleeping and requests tapes of Pastor Nelson's sermons.

## <sup>10</sup> Lee Family Event - Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2009

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Tim & Kate have been holding events around the country bringing us up-to-date with news of Jigsaw Kids Ministries in the Philippines, and of their own lives as a family. The event nearest us took place at Rising Brook Baptist Church in Stafford on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2009.

Unfortunately there were other things going on on the 7<sup>th</sup> November – like the ‘Light Party’ - so only three of us managed to get to the Rising Brook event. Tim & Kate had taken their three children – Rebekah, James and Grace - to the event on the previous Saturday but toddler, Grace, got bored and tired and so Tim & Kate didn’t bring their children with them to Stafford, which was sad for us but, no doubt better for the children. In the morning, Tim used various video clips and Power Point to inform us about what they had been doing and why and where they see God leading them now. We were shown pictures of the folk we had been praying for. It was so encouraging to see how the work is thriving under Filipino leadership. Over a lunch break we had ample opportunity to ask Tim and Kate questions, which means that Dorothy, Ann and Cecilia should be able to answer any readers’ questions.

God spoke to Tim and Kate some months ago through the following verses. ‘Jesus said, *“The kingdom of heaven is like this; a man sowed a seed in a field, the seed grew into a big tree and the birds lived in its branches.”* (Mark 4:32-34) They see themselves as planters of the seed in the lives of the staff and communities that Jigsaw works in. The roots of the seed grew by working alongside people, modelling good children’s work, implementing boundaries of accountability, justice, management and leadership systems. Right now they see Jigsaw as a shoot, but the vision is that it will grow into a big strong tree in the community, which provides places of refuge and safety for the urban poor and street children that live nearby. Now the tree must grow into a Filipino tree that is developed within the culture and context of urban poor life, otherwise it will be seen as a Western import. and will fall. Tim and Kate see the next stage for them as tending, supporting, watering and protecting the shoot which they can do from a home base in the UK with Tim going out to the Philippines three times a year. This will give the Jigsaw shoot space to grow into a truly Filipino tree providing refuge for kids and families. Tim introduced us to many of the Filipino Jigsaw staff and the work they are doing – carrying on the work in Tim & Kate’s absence.

*(continued on page 11)*

So, Tim, Kate and the children came back to the UK in June this year, originally based in Huddersfield near Tim's father who was seriously ill and has since died. They are now living in Cambridgeshire nearer to Kate's parents where they hope to buy a house.. At present, Tim is in frequent contact with the Jigsaw staff in Manila via Skype and returned in September to Manila for 2½ weeks on the first of his three times a year visits. He is embarking on study of international child development. The aim is that Tim & Kate will become 'redundant' within two years as far as Jigsaw is concerned and that the 'tree' be wholly Filipino by then. Kate is looking for a part-time teaching post not too far from their new home base in St Ives.

Tim shared how hard it has been for them to move back to the UK away from their Jigsaw family, but they are sure they have done the right thing. CMS is supporting them in this change. We remain one of the Lees' Link churches. They are very grateful for the support they have received from Christ Church, and they hope to visit us again in the new year.

Cecilia Wilding – Missions Secretary

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## **Why Bible Translation?**

*(Article written by Chris & Elaine Hurst who are involved in Bible translation in Mexico amongst the Aztecs. They are currently based in Canada and are using Skype to communicate with national translators)*

Nard Pugyao was born in a remote village in the northern Philippines . When he read Mark's account of Jesus' life for the first time in his Isnag language he was amazed. First he was amazed at the person of Jesus, then he was amazed that God was so powerless as to allow his son be killed. Then he read the resurrection chapter and saw God's power and understood the purpose of Christ's sacrifice. Last week I had the privilege of working alongside Nard as we attended a Bible College here in Abbotsford and shared with students about Bible Translation.

Nard laughs when he reflects on critics who say "just leave those people alone, they are happy as they are". He says he was far from happy trying to appease the spirit world. He's so grateful for the change he has experienced through knowing Christ.

*(continued on page 12)*

## Why Bible Translation *(continued)*

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Elaine and I have worked in Bible translation in Mexico since 1983. "Don't all Mexicans understand Spanish?", I hear someone say. True, Spanish is the national language and is growing in dominance. However, 10% of the 100 million population also speak one of 360 indigenous languages and some of them will speak very limited Spanish. For indigenous people, Spanish is often considered an outsider's language. Their heart language is their mother tongue, even though they may become fluent in Spanish. Our friends Steve and Trina Graham are assisting in the translation of the Cape Verdean Creole New Testament.

We see a changing situation among these Aztec people of Southern Veracruz ; many of them still speak their language, Nahuatl, in most settings, others are shifting to Spanish because they work with people who don't speak Nahuatl. When we arrived in 1983 there was very little interest in developing the language, folks could not see any point in writing it down since they already spoke it perfectly well! Plácido, one of the co-translators we work with, said that in the early days folks didn't even want to try to read the booklets he showed them. Now he is finding more and more people who are interested in learning how to write it well. The government is now promoting the use of the indigenous languages in Mexico which enhances people's self-esteem, whereas in the past they have felt marginalized.

Sometimes it seems that the church lags behind in these changes. Since the Bible has only been available in Spanish and the bulk of mission activity takes place through Spanish, the Aztec churches tend to operate in Spanish. (It is generally true around the world that minority people groups think that the proper way to do worship is in the regional or national language, which has more prestige than their local language.)

Recently Plácido told me that his church has begun small group meetings in homes. He says that though he has battled to use Nahuatl more in the regular church services, he finds that people are completely at ease using Nahuatl in these home meetings.

We've seen encouraging response to the portions of Scripture that we've published, but the team longs for the day when they will have a complete New Testament to share with people. At the current rate of progress we hope to finish the revision of the New Testament in three years. This is a major challenge because the three Aztec fellows who work with us are also actively involved in promoting literacy among their people. Currently there is strong interest among school teachers in using the material we have developed for teaching reading and writing. So, we look to the Lord to guide in the balance between relating to the wider community, the churches and actually doing the translation.

## A New Plane for MAF

On a wet and windy Saturday in November Diana and I drove down to Sywell Aerodrome near Northampton to see the latest plane to go in to service with MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship). This isn't any old plane, It's a brand new Kodiak 100 and it's been donated by a company in the Isle of Man to "Celebrate God's blessings over 25 years in business" and it's been developed particularly with the sort of terrain MAF have to deal with in mind. There are lots of technological advantages over the current planes but one of the most significant is that this one will run on jet fuel (at 64p a litre) rather than expensive and scarce Avgas. It's maximum flight distance is 1,233nm at 10,000 ft and it can cruise at 170nm/hr at the same altitude. We were able to climb into the cockpit (and be dazzled by the array of dials and instruments!) and



chat with Harry the pilot who flew the plane in and will be flying it in Indonesia where it will be based. We watched the new MAF DVD and chatted to other folk then at 2.00pm we all gathered near to the plane and watched Harry taxi onto the runway and after what seemed like a run up of just a few yards, this beautiful

little machine was airborne, a flypast followed and then it was gone....an afternoon to remember.

Phil Tunstall  
(above-Phil at the controls)




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### More Notice-Board Bloopers!

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

.....  
For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

.....  
Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

.....  
The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

## World AIDS Day

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December 1<sup>st</sup> is World Aids Day when we reflect on and pray for those suffering from or affected by HIV/AIDS.

It is currently estimated that nearly 33 million people are living with HIV, a disease that devastates communities worldwide. It deepens poverty, which in turn accelerates the spread and impact of the virus. 4.3 million new infections were recorded in 2006, of which 95% were in low income countries. The unprecedented loss of life has critically affected governments and other institutions, even reversing progress on development in many severely affected countries. For example, in Mozambique there are 1.5 million orphans who've lost their parents to an AIDS related illness.

Tearfund believes the church has a key role to play, both locally and globally, by providing services to affected communities and influencing government decisions. Their aim is by 2016 to stop and reverse the impact of HIV in areas where they work by supporting those affected, promoting access to healthcare and treatment and tackling the stigma associated with the disease.

£12 million has been donated so far to help towards making the vision a reality and the impact has already been felt in thousands of people's lives. To quote Dr Honore Kaozi, an HIV specialist in Mozambique, 'When people discovered they had HIV they lost hope, as there was no treatment. They felt they were being punished by God. All that changed when people had access to treatment and the possibility of anti-retroviral medicines.' Tearfund uses money donated to train church workers. They inform patients about ARVs, help them to get to clinics to access the free drugs and to make sure they take them each day. They also provide spiritual support to patients during their treatment.

Partners are also working hard to change attitudes towards those living with HIV, especially within the church. Rev Ephraim Disi Mbewe is Southern Africa co-ordinator for ANERELA +, a network of religious leaders living with or affected by HIV/AIDS. He was diagnosed with HIV in 1996, a year after his wife died from an AIDS related illness. When he felt able to confide in his church leaders, they kept his confidence until he felt able to go public. He knows many churches are not as sympathetic as his and says 'The church in some areas is lagging behind, it still moralises the issue. It's one of the hardest nuts to crack.'

There has been some good news this year from S Africa where Andrew Butterworth is working. In June, a new study reported that HIV infection has levelled and the rate of infection in children and teenagers could be falling.

In the Tearfund section of Mission News and Prayer Diary you can read and pray about HIV/AIDS work in different countries, beginning on 1<sup>st</sup> December – World Aids Day.

# ROADS FOR PRAYER

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## 6th December

Navigation Loop  
Rangeley View  
Barnton Edge  
Anderton Way/View

## 13th December

Bentley Close  
Rendel Close  
Brindley Close  
Rudyard Close



## 20th December

Cressey Close  
Joules Drive  
Cauldon Way  
Harecastle Bank

## 27th December

Saltersford Rise  
Rolt Close  
Millenium Way  
Cameron Wharf

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## Rock

On Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> November, Ann, Cecilia and I went to the Symphony Hall in Birmingham to join in the choir for the performance of Roger Jones Christian musical “Rock” – the story of Simon Peter. In the summer we had visited Lee Abbey for a Roger Jones week and had a great time taking part in the fellowship whilst learning the words and music for this. We were told that Roger was putting on the final performance of his tour with this musical in Birmingham and that if we wished we could take part in the mass choir. None of us had ever been to the Symphony Hall but had been told what a lovely place it was and that the acoustics were fantastic. When we arrived and took our seats I don’t think we expected to see so many people in the choir – we were told that there are over 1,000 from all over the country. The atmosphere was electric and the sense of Christian fellowship was so apparent.

Irene

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Noted while in Devon, epitaph to the Rev C Glascott, 49 years incumbent of the parish of Hatherleigh. What an example to follow!

Dorothy

A CHRISTIAN AND A SCHOLAR, HE CONSECRATED ALL HIS TALENTS TO THE WORK OF THE MINISTRY. FROM THE PULPIT WITH PECULIAR ELOQUENCE AND FERVOUR HE DISPLAYED THE FATHER’S EVERLASTING LOVE; THE ATONEMENT, RIGHTEOUSNESS AND FULL SALVATION OF THE SON; THE SANCTIFYING GRACE OF THE ETERNAL SPIRIT; AND ALL THE JOYS AND TRIUMPHS OF A PURIFYING FAITH. IN THE ACTIVE DISCHARGE OF HIS PASTORAL DUTIES. HE LIVED AND LABOURED ONLY TO EXALT A SAVIOUR’S LOVE AND TO PROMOTE THE SALVATION OF SINNERS. HAVING UNIFORMLY EVINced THE PURITY AND SINCERITY OF HIS PRINCIPLES FROM EARLY LIFE TO THE AGE OF 89. HE DEPARTED I THE FULL ASSURANCE OF HOPE, AND ENTERED INTO GLORY

# FROM THE REGISTERS

## BAPTISMS

18th Oct      Marcus King  
25th Oct      Evie Alice Buxton

## FUNERALS

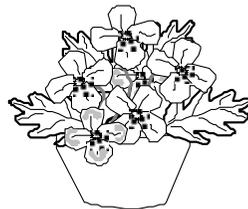
|                          |                  |    |
|--------------------------|------------------|----|
| 15 <sup>th</sup> October | Nancy Cheadle    | 89 |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> October | Nancy Harvey     | 99 |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> October | Reg John Sellman | 81 |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> November | John Nevitt      | 77 |

## SIDESPERSIONS ROTA

|          | AM                       |                                | PM                        |
|----------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 6th Dec  | D. Pickles<br>V. Ledward | D. Wilson<br>K. Thompson       | D. Shemilt                |
| 13th Dec | A. West<br>A. Greer      | G. Holden<br>J. Abrahams       | P. Tunstall               |
| 20th Dec | J. Rowlands<br>I. Gassor | B. Hutchinson<br>M. Hutchinson | D. Shemilt                |
| 24th Dec |                          |                                | P. Tunstall<br>D. Shemilt |
| 25th Dec | I. Gassor<br>D. Davies   | C. Wilding<br>T. MacFarlane    |                           |
| 27th Dec | A. West<br>A. Greer      | G. Holden<br>J. Abrahams       |                           |

## FLOWER ROTA

6th Dec      Mrs E. Woodhead  
13th Dec      Flower Guild  
20th Dec      Christmas  
27th Dec      Christmas



### Christ Church on the Internet

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| Parish website         | <a href="http://www.christchurchstone.org">www.christchurchstone.org</a>                     |
| Parish office email    | <a href="mailto:christchurch.centre1@btinternet.com">christchurch.centre1@btinternet.com</a> |
| Magazine contributions | <a href="mailto:christchurch_mag@yahoo.co.uk">christchurch_mag@yahoo.co.uk</a>               |

|                            |  |        |
|----------------------------|--|--------|
| <b>Deanery Synod Reps</b>  | Mrs S Hallam, Mr D. Rowlands   |        |
| <b>P.C.C. Members</b>      | Mr G. Holden, Mr K. Reynolds, Mrs J. Rowlands<br>Mr A. Stone, Mrs E. Woodhead, Mrs D. Davies<br>Mrs I. Gassor, Mrs E. Mason, Mr M. Thompson<br>Mrs D. Wilson, Mrs J. Abrahams, Mrs K. Latham<br>Mr P. Mason, Mr A. Rushton, Mr T. Woodhead |        |
| <b>Secretary</b>           | Jacqueline Abrahams.....   | 817020 |
| <b>Treasurer</b>           | Kevin Reynolds.....  | 851595 |
| <b>Envelopes, Gift Aid</b> | Nesta Challinor  |        |

## GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

|   |                        |        |
|---|------------------------|--------|
| <b>Climbers 3-7 years</b>                                   | Sandra Morray.....     | 286093 |
| <b>Explorers 7-11 years</b>                                 | Estella Woodhead.....  | 761659 |
| <b>Pathfinders 11-14 years</b>                              | Enid Bell.....         | 815775 |
| <b>Banner Group</b>   | Jeanette Rowlands..... | 816713 |
| <b>Church Missionary Boxes</b>                              | Cecilia Wilding.....   | 817987 |
| <b>Flower Guild</b>   | Marylyn Hillman.....   | 815936 |
| <b>Men's Fellowship</b>                                     | Mike Thompson.....     | 813712 |
| <b>Missions Secretary</b>                                   | Cecilia Wilding.....   | 817987 |
| <b>Prayer Group</b>   | Jeanette Rowlands..... | 816713 |
| <b>Parents &amp; Toddlers</b><br>(Mon 9.30 – 11.15am)       | Sandra Morray.....     | 286093 |
| <b>3rd Stone Brownies</b><br>(Mo 6:00-7:30pm, First School) | Janet Smith.....       | 815939 |

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

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

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

*Monday Toddlers*      9.30 am

## 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!

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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](http://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](http://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).

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## Subscriptions

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