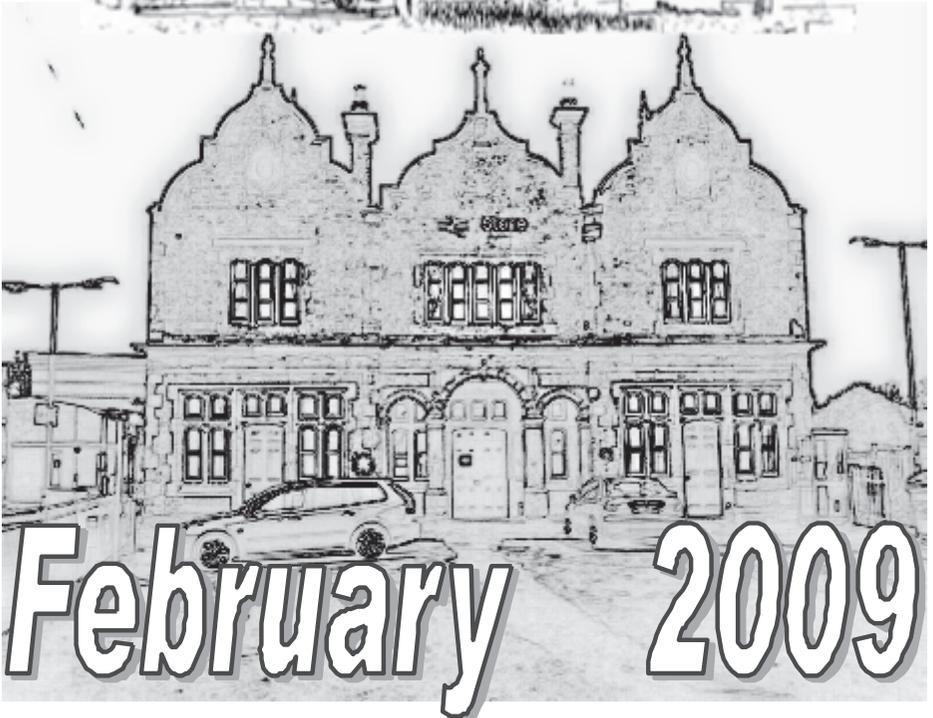


# Christ Church and People

Parish Magazine of  
Christ Church Stone

40p



# February 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 page 21 for details)

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## THE PARISH TEAM

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

## CHRIST CHURCH CENTRE

<b>Booking Secretary</b>	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 March  
magazine to us by  
15th February

Cover Story:- The railway station

# February 2009

Sun	1	9:15am 6:00pm	Communion. Luke 12:1-12 "What will last?" Evening Prayer at Christ Church Daniel 2 "The indestructible kingdom"
Mon	2	9:00am 7:00pm	Prayers for schools and young people Cornerstone for teenagers
Tue	3	9:30am 10:00am 10:30am 12:30pm 7:30pm 7:30pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before midweek service Midweek service Seekers Club at Christ Church Middle School Christ Church Youth Club Fraternal meeting
Wed	4		
Thu	5	1:20pm	Christ Church Middle School assembly
Fri	6	10:00am	"Christianity Explored" for women
Sat	7	8:30am 9:00am	Prayer meeting Breakfast in Centre
Sun	8	9:15am 6:00pm	Morning Prayer. Luke 12:13-34 "Money worries" Communion at Christ Church Daniel 3 "When facing the flames"
Mon	9	9:00am 7:00pm 7:30pm 7:45pm	Prayers for schools and young people Cornerstone for teenagers Deanery Synod at Barlaston Coalport Drive home group
Tue	10	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	11	9:45am	Shallowford House Quiet Day
Thu	12	1:20pm	Christ Church Middle School assembly
Fri	13	10:00am	"Christianity Explored" for women
Sat	14		

# February 2009

Sun	15	9:15am 6:00pm	Communion. Luke 12:35-48 "Watchfulness" Evening Prayer at Christ Church Daniel 4 "A divine dressing-down"
Mon	16	9:00am 7:00pm	Prayers for schools and young people Cornerstone for teenagers
Tue	17	10:00am 10:30am 7:30pm	Coffee before midweek service Midweek service Christ Church Youth Club
Wed	18	10:00am	Men's Fellowship
Thu	19		
Fri	20	10:00am	"Christianity Explored" for women
Sat	21		
Sun	22	9:15am 10:30am 6:00pm	Family service. Luke 12:49-53 "A divisive message" Fair trade stall in the Centre Communion at Christ Church Daniel 5 "The writing is on the wall"
Mon	23	9:00am 7:00pm 7:45pm	Prayers for schools and young people Cornerstone for teenagers Coalport Drive home group
Tue	24	9:30am 10:00am 10:00am 10:30am 12:30pm 5:00pm 7:30pm	Christ Church First School assembly Christian Medical Fellowship talk at Doxey Coffee before midweek service Midweek service Seekers Club at Christ Church Middle School Pancake Party (to be confirmed) Christ Church Youth Club
Wed	25	7:30pm	Ash Wednesday Communion
Thu	26	1:20pm	Christ Church Middle School assembly
Fri	27	10:00am	"Christianity Explored" for women
Sat	28	10:00am	Marriage preparation group

## A testing time

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Lent should not be a joyless experience! The six-weeks run up to Easter is traditionally a time of repentance in the Christian church. It is often used as a special season in which to dig deeper into the Bible's teaching as we ask the Lord Jesus to search our hearts and purify our lives. Such testing and training leads to living a more Christ-like life: a life that brings Jesus honour and helps us to discover joy filled life.

Too often Lent is narrowed down to overcoming gluttony: cutting out chocolate or cakes for a few weeks. This can be counter-productive if it sends us on a guilt trip or leads to growing pride over how well we are doing. It could also be smoke screen to avoid the bigger issues of examining our sinful desires or motivations. Hiding our sins will not lead to becoming more like Christ.

One sinful motive to face up to is '*greed, which is idolatry*' (Colossians 3v5). It's surprisingly easy to slip from just aiming to meet our needs into pandering to greed. Greed may be for material things, but it can also be a greed for power or fame. Greed longs for more, but fails to be satisfied and so it is sucked in by the advert that says 'take the waiting out of wanting.' Yet it is like a cancer to the soul. This is why the apostle Paul commands us in his letter to the Colossians to set our minds on heavenly things and to put our earthly nature to death. Also, Jesus' parable of the rich fool teaches how futile it is to store up treasure on earth, which we leave to others when we die. Prudence for this life is encouraged, but the wise person lays up treasure in heaven, investing for eternity.

The following words are searching: '*If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him?*' (I John 3v17). If we have genuinely received the grace of God then we will reflect this in a change of outlook towards the needs of others. Jesus longs to set us from greed in order to learn contentment, the importance of a simple lifestyle and the value of self-giving. Such a lifestyle leads to lasting joy.

Paul Kingman.



### **A thank-you to our magazine team:**

Thanks go to the editor Dave Bell for putting together another year of material. We also want to express thanks to our team of volunteers who kindly deliver magazines to a large number of people. We are grateful for the efficient monthly delivery which enables a wide readership to keep up with the news of what happens in and through Christ Church.

P.S. If you would like to receive this magazine regularly please contact Marilyn Hillman (details are on the final line of the back page) about the subscription.

## Lord, Help My Unbelief

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No one likes having their flaws exposed. It is uncomfortable having our faults pointed out. But if repentance is the path to *joy* (see January article) then it must be for our good. The Scriptures are given to rebuke us and correct us, as well as teach us and train us in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16). As a new series I want to examine a number of Bible verses that we don't believe. By "we" I mean the Church generally in the West. By "don't believe" I mean – we know such-and-such a verse is in the Bible, and we're not so arrogant as to say "I don't think God inspired that bit" – but we don't put it into practice. Parts of the Bible we do not obey are parts of the Bible we do not *really* believe.

Often these parts of the Bible are those passages that speak about how we should live now. As one church leader put it:

Presenting the teaching of Jesus – especially when it comes to violence, sex and money – always creates a strong reaction. Many people with a "church" background are happy to see Jesus as eternal fire insurance but have never really taken Him seriously as the Lord and Master of life right now. We have been amazed at how few people really believe that Jesus is right about violence, sex and money.

Let me put you on the spot: how would you summarise Jesus' teaching in these areas? Do you agree with Jesus, or are the words of God the Son only one opinion among many?

If you have suggestions as to which verses I should cover, let me know. I have my blind spots, so there will be plenty of areas of my life that haven't truly been exposed to the life-giving light of Christ.

In my caving days, after a long trip underground the re-emergence into daylight would sometimes make our eyes water. The light was a shock after several hours in gloom. But this wasn't reason enough to live in a pothole! God's Word is a lamp to our feet and light to our path. May it shine with ever increasing brightness in your life.

Tim Vasby-Burnie  
tim@vasbyburnie.net

## What are Our Non-Negotiables?

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Children are continually trying to negotiate with their parents the boundaries that have been set out for them of what they can and cannot do. Some times these negotiations are very healthy and happen simply because the child has a different personality, with different tastes and interests. In this case it is good to allow them to pursue different sports, hobbies and interests even if it is not our personal preference or what we would like them to do. Other negotiations are motivated by a young persons ignorance and self-centeredness and the things that they want are dangerous and harmful not only to themselves but to others around them. These requests are far more complicated because of the serious consequences that will follow if we allow our children to pursue them.

The difficult job for the parent is to discern what areas of life our children are free to choose for themselves and what areas of life are so essential, so important that they are non-negotiable. Children must abide by these non-negotiables, even, especially, if it is against their will. For example, when your child decides that they do not like eating fruit and vegetables you force them to because it is essential that your child eat their greens (or whatever colour they are) so that they grow to have strong and healthy bodies. If your young one decided that they did not want to go to school you would make them go because without an education they will find it very difficult to communicate and get by in society. Children learn very quickly what the non-negotiables are in their families and although they might try and push the boundaries from time to time, on the whole they learn to respect these practises and even grow to appreciate and even value these important things for themselves.

Parents, your children have been looking to you since the day they were born to observe and understand for themselves what life is all about. Your non-negotiables, right or wrong, are the starting point and foundation your children are building their life upon. They trust you to make the big decisions for them. If you make your children do something, they know it must be important.

Jesus once said that He is the way you should live, He is the truth you must know, He is the life you must receive. Jesus even said that we can only get to the City of God and meet our Heavenly Father if we first meet with Him. If this is true then this makes Jesus the great non-negotiable for every family in every walk of life. For the sake of your family's freedom and happiness in this life and an eternal home in the life to come, make following Jesus daily the great non-negotiable for as long as your children live under your roof.

What is it that marks out the people of God and makes us different?

The Old Testament answer is that it is God's active presence with us. So Moses says to God: "Is it not in thy going with us that we are distinct, I and thy people, from all other peoples on the face of the earth?" The New Testament answer is really the same. Jesus says, "Lo I am with you always to the close of the age." YHWH has become Immanuel—God with us.

Outwardly Christians are pretty much the same as everyone else, but inwardly we have the active presence of God. "The kingdom," says Jesus, "is not over here or over there because, look! The kingdom of God is in the midst of you."

So all we do as Christians comes from the inner nourishment of God's active and invisible presence. And that means that it's a first duty of every church to nourish itself in its invisible life and to teach others to pray.

The apostles knew that, which is why the letters in the New Testament are as much prayers as they are teaching. "I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers," says, for instance, the letter to the Ephesians. It's a first duty of clergy and lay leaders to give thanks for the people in their congregations, to pray for them, and to teach them about the inner life.

"More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of," wrote Tennyson and churches that major on prayer know he was right.

I remember a fashionable theologian of the 1970s saying that he felt sorry when he went into the study of a parish priest and saw the little line of booklets on prayer and spirituality on his shelf. He felt that the reason the vicar had to keep on buying these books was the same reason other people keep on buying on dieting: they don't actually work!

But the fashionable theologian was wrong. I'm glad when I see a little line of books on prayer on someone's shelf because I know how good books on prayer can nourish one's inner life and build the "transforming friendship" which is our invisible relationship with the Lord.

It's no coincidence that healthy churches seem to be the ones in which prayer is being nourished: vigils, half-nights of prayer and fasting, times of adoration, missionary prayer meetings and so on.

I have asked the advice of our director of parish mission, our spirituality, worship and renewal groups and then I've requested the faithful team who put together our monthly Prayer Diary to make it available in A5 format so that we can slip it into our Bibles and use it in our daily praying.

I have also asked for a simple 'rule of life' card to be made available so that each year we can set simple and practical patterns for our walk with Christ. I hope that both the new format for the Prayer Diary and the rule of life guide will be ready by Easter.

*(continued on next page)*

So my invitation to the diocese this New Year is to have a look at the prayer life of your parish or chaplaincy. Is all the visible activity, all the evangelism, all the giving out to the community, properly sustained by the invisible life below? Miracles still happen where people pray fervently and I am often conscious of being borne along by the prayers of churches and individuals and I am very grateful for it.

For the last few years I have asked parishes to set aside Ash Wednesday or another suitable day as a day for concerted prayer and fasting for the diocese. This year I invite you to do the same. We give thanks that we are able to have two extra curates again this year and that we were able to strengthen our reserves substantially just before the credit crunch. The policy of the last five years has really worked and put us in a good position

But there is much to pray for. As the psalmist says: "May the Lord answer you, may he grant you your heart's desire, may he fulfil all your plans."

May we be marked by knowing Christ's active presence in us and among us in 2009.

***Jonathan Gledhill, Bishop of Lichfield***

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### The Lent 2009 Challenge: **Cover to Cover**

Giving up chocolate might help our waistline but how much will it deepen our love for the Lord Jesus? We know that during his 40 days in the wilderness Jesus was sustained by his knowledge of God through the Scriptures. So let's give ourselves a worthy challenge...

#### **read the Bible cover-to-cover during Lent!**

"I've done it twice myself and was startled both times by the rewards it offers."  
(Ron Frost, Christian and author)

It is a daunting but exciting challenge. You don't have to be a speed reader. Neither are we expecting to understand every passage! The benefit of this Bible-soak is to get a greater grasp of the story of salvation and for our faith to grow as we see God in action.

You can read or listen to the Bible – or a combination of both. If you want to find out about audio versions of the Bible (e.g. to listen to in the car, or with an mp3 player) please contact Tim ([tim@vasbyburnie.net](mailto:tim@vasbyburnie.net) or 814244) who can tell you about versions and prices (from free to expensive).

Anyone up for this challenge should let Adam or Tim know so we can support one another, as well as plan to meet a few times during Lent to share the exciting discoveries we have made.

One thing I ask of the LORD, this is what I seek: to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord.  
(Psalm 27:4)

The PCC met on Wednesday 19 November 2008 and the following matters were reported on, discussed and/or decided.

- Following further discussion on the GAFCON statement, it was agreed that the PCC supports the 14 statements of Anglican identity and stands by the Jerusalem Declaration as stated on 29 June 2008.
- Our ministry amongst older people has extended through Bromfield Court with a monthly meeting being held there.
- Debt Support. We are to investigate the provision of a 'budget coaching' scheme through Red2Black. On completing their workshop session, individuals would be able to act as a 'first port of call' to signpost those seeking help to the most appropriate service for their needs.
- The provision of an after school club at the middle school is being considered in an effort to reach young people aged 11 and upwards to the youth club age. The current lunch time seekers club only really attracts years 5 and 6 (ages 9 to 11). Your prayers for this venture were requested.
- We have recently received a legacy from the estate of the late Doreen Price which is to be used for the general use and benefit of Christ Church, Stone. This has been put into a high interest deposit account until a suitable and appropriate use has been identified.
- It was agreed that we investigate the possibility of purchasing a commercial dishwasher for the kitchen in the church centre. This would be especially useful for events such as the recent Christianity Explored course.
- Adam Rushton's prayer letter (publicity flyer) has been finalised and is now being sent out in a street by street distribution. This follows the idea of praying for people living in different streets each week, as we currently do in the weekly service sheet. We received our first prayer request on 19 November.

# <sup>10</sup>Christ Church First School- February newsletter

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A very Happy New Year to you all. We hope you all had a peaceful Christmas. We came back to school eager to work and had our first snowfall of the year!

December and January were very busy months. In December our Reception class have had their first class visit since starting school in September. They went to Birches Valley, met Father Christmas and brought back their own tree!

Year 2 also visited Birches Valley in connection with their science topic about habitats. They are eager to go again!

Year 4 were invited to visit Christ Church Middle School to watch their Christmas concert dress rehearsal. We noticed a lot of musical talent, singing dancing and playing instruments. The children have written a letters of thanks. Alleyne's also invited Year 4 children from our school, Green Lea, Standon and Barlaston to take part in a themed Indian day and it was fantastic.

We decided to hold a maths day on 4<sup>th</sup> December. The children worked in vertically grouped classes all day and it was a pleasure to watch the older children helping the younger ones. There were lots of activities going on throughout the day. Teachers and children had lots of fun!

The end of term was very exciting as we made our first ever CD. We recorded all the songs from our nativity plays.

The CD is now on sale. Watch out x factor!! All the children performed their nativity plays to various audiences and as always the children and staff worked very hard to produce enjoyable events.

The choir performed very well at the Victoria Hall for the Douglas McMillan Hospice Light up a Life, as always we are very proud of them.

We collected our spare pennies in our 'Dougie Banks' as a fundraising activity for the hospice.

Mrs Fitzpatrick and Mr Hindhaugh are making the first trip for our Comenius Project on the 18<sup>th</sup> January. They will be flying from John Lennon airport to France. They will spend 3 days with teachers in a French school in Rennes finding out about teaching and learning in France. All the children will be visiting museums. Year 3 & year 4 visited Wedgwood on 14<sup>th</sup> January.

We look forward to updating you about our expeditions next month.

From Christ Church First School

## **Hebron Highlights**

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In their recent prayer letter, Dagmar and Ralph Baron list some of the highlights of life at Hebron School, South India, over the past year:

In a school of just 360 students, aged 4-18:

- more than 90 passed ABRSM music exams last month and two of our students were awarded trophies for the top performances in singing and overall performance in South India.
- Academically our students came top in the June 08 exams in a number of subjects at GCSE, AS and A Level and our own son, Simon, was the top A Level student in India across 3 subjects.
- Many students completed Duke of Edinburgh awards, including several at Gold Level.
- We saw an increasing involvement from students in community service locally, including raising funds and working to improve conditions in local children's homes.
- We had notable successes in inter-school Sports including winning the Hockey and Swimming and great individual wins in Athletics and Cross-country.
- We are equally excited by a steady growth in Christian maturity and commitment among students and by the way that so many go on to be salt and light in universities around the world.

Praise the Lord with them for these notable achievements at such a small school.

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### **News from Tim and Kate Lee**

(Church Missionary Society, Manila)

Our kids are all really well and keeping us amused and busy. James is quite a star football player and in a recent tournament he scored four out of the five goals for his team. We were very proud parents with hoarse voices and sunburnt noses after the games. Rebekah is quite a budding artist and clothes designer. She is always sketching away at something and we are quite amazed by her ability to put together clothes to look like a very trendy nine year old. She is learning to play tennis also and is now quite a match for her dad. Grace is still the drama queen of the family. She constantly has us all laughing with her made up songs, impressions and theatrical dances! She has also just discovered the joys of mums make up!!!!

*(continued on next page)*

Jigsaw has been keeping us busy last year. We have tried to focus on strengthening what is already there. This has meant writing new curriculum's for the kids clubs, updating contracts, rewriting job descriptions, new finance systems, completing our registration with all the relevant authorities and a myriad of other things. Alongside this the literacy project was started in 2008.

This has been excellent so far and already after just four months of classes kids are being able to read and write for the first time. The community has really accepted Jigsaw as a permanent feature and the literacy classes have been well received. Jigsaw was also able to purchase a brand new van this year from the support raised by one link church and my parents. This has been an excellent addition to our work and has meant greater flexibility in what we do and most importantly has enabled us to take groups of kids out for the day. These trips out have really cemented relationships between staff and kids and also between the kids. For many of the kids the trips out were their first time out of the area they live in. Thanks to so many generous donations that Jigsaw has received we were able to purchase a present and provide a fantastic party for each child that comes to our various projects/clubs.

We have on our registers now 950 kids! The team worked tirelessly in December buying all the gifts, wrapping them, planning and preparing the parties. During the week of the parties the kids workers were getting up early to cook all the food and then doing the parties – sometimes two in one day! So to say thank you to the staff we organised a big party for them all on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. We treated the staff to all their favourite Filipino foods that they could never normally afford and organised games with good prizes. Each staff member received a hamper of Christmas food to share with their families.

Well this was supposed to be a Christmas letter but we never got round to sending it so now it's a New Year letter. Happy New Year to everyone.

Lots of love

Tim, Kate, James, Rebekah and Grace. XXX

## Children's Society House Boxes

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It's that time of the year again!

Please can you let me have your house box, but not until after 20<sup>th</sup> February - please. If you bring it to church, please hand it to me or give it to one of the wardens, don't leave it at the back of the church.

If you would like me to collect your box, that's fine, just let me know. House boxes raise over £2 million a year for the society's work.

You may be interested in having a box yourself, I would be happy to organise that for you. Every penny counts in giving a child a new start.

Thank you once again for your continued support, which enables the Children's Society to continue to help disadvantaged children in so many ways.

Children's Society Secretary , Sandra Morray

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### Christingle 20<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2008

About 60 Christingles were made by the children, some of them remembering what each part represented.

There were lots of crafts to enjoy, the children filling their bags with their creations. There was a great atmosphere and a buzz of excitement. Then into church for the service which was well supported. Thank you to the musicians and singers who led the singing.

Paul talked to us and then wrapped the whole congregation in a huge red ribbon symbolically reminding us that Jesus died for us all.

The Christingles were lit and we sang Away in a Manger.

After wards there were refreshments served in the centre.

Thank you to everyone who helped. £57.90 was collected at the service, so thank you all for your generosity. The money will go to Children's Society to help their work with disadvantaged children.

Sandra Morray

# *Nefyn Camps*

Nefyn, a village with a sweeping sandy bay, is on the Llyn Peninsula in North Wales. Over 45 years ago Manchester Area Crusaders organised a camp for boys on a Farmer's field; since then there have been camps for several weeks every summer. 2009 is no different and will see the same field transformed for five camps for children, nine to seventeen-years-old, catering for about forty children on each camp, meaning 200 kids will hear about Jesus, join in fun and games, whilst making new friends.

Nefyn Camps are part of Urban Saints (formerly 'Crusaders'), a national Christian youth organisation, whose aim is to introduce young people to the Bible and Christian teaching, whilst they enjoy themselves in a safe and friendly atmosphere.

In 1978 I attended my first 'Nefyn' - one of the first mixed camps, as part of a Posse from Sandbach Crusaders. In the intervening years I have been to a dozen or so more camps, first as a camper, then junior tent-leader, before assisting on the committee and organising activities on camps, or just a weekend working party to erect or pack-up the tents. One of those work-parties saw the installation of a toilet-block, putting an end to the nighttime treks to a hole-in-the-ground and washing in cold water (Ah! The good old days!) Nefyn holds a special place for me, with the work of God so evident in the lives of the young people and leaders.

Marriage and having our own children meant my that involvement took a break, but in 2005, I was able to return as 'warden' – keeping up the canvas, cleaning loos, and general practical help, whilst our son, Philip, enjoyed his first camp; he has returned each year since; his place for 2009 already booked! Amazingly the leader at the camp, Andrew Philips, who also spoke in the evening meetings, had been a camper on several holidays where I had been his leader! He is now a school evangelist working in some of Manchester's more interesting places.

The campsite has pitches for football, basketball, unihok and crocker (a bizarre, but fast & furious game of cricket, placed with a football and rounders bat). A large marquee has space for meals, meetings, indoor games (including pool, table football, table tennis) and craft activities.

*(continued on page 15)*

## Nefyn Camps *(continued)*

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A permanent, well-equipped cookhouse, staffed by volunteer cooks, is kept busy feeding the hungry kids (and leaders). The safe & sandy Nefyn beach is only a few minutes walk from camp and is a regular part of supervised camp activities.

Optional activities vary from camp to camp and may include canoeing, climbing, golf, high ropes course, horse riding, mountain biking, and pottery...

**A Camp: 25 July - 1 August 2009 for 15 - 17 year old.**

**B Camp: 1 - 8 August 2009 for 11 - 13 year olds.**

**C Camp: 8 - 15 August 2009 for 9 - 11 year olds.**

**D Camp: 15 - 22 August 2009 for 13 - 15 year olds.**

**E Camp: 22 - 29 August 2009 for 12 - 14 year olds.**

For 2009 the cost is excellent value at just £105 - which includes return coach transport, from Lymm, with the main party. An additional charge may be payable for some of the optional activities.

For more information, speak to Andy or Philip Stone. Philip is going on B camp this year: Andy is taking David to his first Nefyn - C camp. Andy is also trying to persuade a few others from Christ Church to come along as leaders.

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## Sermon series for February to April

Mornings at Christ Church and Oulton: at Christmas we celebrated the fact of Jesus being the Saviour of the world. Luke gives the most detailed account of the birth of Christ and we pick up later in Jesus' life to hear his teaching on the way of life. Luke's Gospel records the words of Jesus that amazed the crowds and infuriated the religious leaders.

At Moddershall and in the evening services: we will look at the book of **Daniel** with its important message about world history. God is working in the present and is working towards a future goal. Most of the first part of Daniel is written in Aramaic – the language of international diplomacy. It tackles how to live as a disciple in a non-Christian society.

# Quiet Day

on

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February

9.45 am -3.30pm

at

Shallowford House

with

Rev Mark Davys

“Ordinary Prayers for everyday life”

Cost including lunch £16

Booking to the Warden 01785 760233

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**AN EVENING WITH ARTHUR AND PHIL**  
**SATURDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> MARCH AT 7.00 PM IN THE**  
**CHURCH CENTRE**

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE:

Sale of the plants & pots of spring bulbs

Guessing games to play – great prizes to  
win £50 a go

Be part of a team in a light-hearted team  
quiz

Refreshments

Tickets £1.00 from Phil or Arthur or from Irene or Carole in  
the office.

# <sup>17</sup> **In the Bleak Mid-Winter, cold congregation moan, Pews stood hard as Iron, feet as cold as stone...**

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This winter has reminded us that global warming does not always mean the weather is warmer; the average temperature locally was less than 4°C in December, dropping below minus 3°C on several occasions. 2009 started even colder, with the average for the first week of January minus 1.5°C.

Despite our best efforts, the temperature inside Christ Church is directly proportional to the temperature outside. Monitoring has shown that, with the heating on full, on the coldest of nights, the temperature barely rises inside the church, with the heating only serving to prevent the building from getting colder, only raising the temperature as the day starts to warm.

The rising cost of gas, not to mention an environmental impact of producing CO<sub>2</sub>, was the reason for reviewing the heating settings for the Church; last year the cost of heating the Church was a significant outgoing, so some minor adjustments were made to prevent the heating from being on constantly. In fact, the low temperatures this have meant that the heating has been ticking-over most nights and the settings reviewed to help make the building more comfortable for services.

The size of the building, lack of any insulation, the old heat distribution system (I don't think there is anyone old enough to remember it being put in) means that the modern boilers are, on very cold nights, fighting a losing battle. Currently the heat is delivered to the church by just five radiators, with the large pipes running around the church and in the floor forming another surface area to give off the heat; changes to the church have seen some of these pipes covered, reducing their effectiveness.

To improve the heat given out from the under-floor pipes, the channels that are accessible have been cleaned and material added to reflect more heat into the church, rather than just warming the bricks.

The best heating is definitely body-heat – the Christmas school services, Carol Service and the Stone Choral Society Concert, all warmed the Church up wonderfully! To put the cost of heating in perspective - heating the Church alone for four weeks in December used 1368 m<sup>3</sup> of gas (that's 48000 cubic feet or 15 Megawatt-hours), has cost nearly £500, and produced 2.8 tonnes of Carbon Dioxide.

Leaving the heating on a higher setting during the week may make it slightly warmer on a Sunday, but would cost a lot more, with most of that heat going straight out of the building – those of you who passed the church after the recent snow would have seen the church roof unburdened by it, as the heat loss through the roof melts it quickly.

The Church Centre, being more modern, keeps heat better, but still uses a significant amount of gas to heat it, but with much more noticeable results.

Whilst on the subject of energy saving, the wardens have taken advantage of special offers at local shops to replace, where possible, incandescent lights with low-energy alternatives. This will result in reducing the electricity consumption of the Church and centre by nearly 3kW – the equivalent of a kettle – saving about 40 pence an hour.

Andy Stone

Pete Mason noticed that a set of Christ Church magazines from 1885 was for sale on the internet, and we have now acquired these. Unfortunately the seller offered no information about who might have kept them, but the first copy has a name - Mrs Eccleshall - written on the cover.

1885 was a very important year for Christ Church, the year the rebuilt church was finished. The first building became unstable and was extensively altered to become the building we now know. It seems that the church magazine had not been published for some time, but was re-started in January 1885. The price, as you will see from the following, was 1d per copy. Before you start calculating the ravages of inflation, let me add that the magazine comprised a single folded sheet, and that the 1d price was subsidised. Here is the vicar's letter from January 1885.

### *To the Parishioners of Christ Church, Stone*

MY DEAR FRIENDS,—

I hope our Parish Magazine will be welcomed by all. It will come as a friend once a month, and give you information of events in our own parish and much besides that will be both interesting, instructive, and useful. I have long wished for this "missing link" to be forged, and am now encouraged to make it a reality by the willingness of my dear brother in the ministry to undertake the heavier part of the work connected with it. Once started, I hope its circulation will steadily increase. This will depend upon you. Let every house in the parish have its copy, let it be carefully read, let it be regularly paid for, and lastly, let it be persistently recommended to others. We want some Annual Subscribers of 2s. 6d., so as to enable us to fix the price of the Magazine at "One Penny." This will bring it within the reach, of all.

That it may prove a help, a comfort, and an encouragement to all, is the earnest desire of

Your affectionate Pastor,

WALTER J. THOMPSON.

CHRIST CHURCH VICARAGE, *January*, 1885.

On the next page is another extract from the January 1885 magazine, describing the rebuilt church. This was probably written by the vicar.

## 1st February

Kent Grove  
Meaford Avenue  
Mount Avenue  
Mount Crescent

## 8th February

Mount Road  
Mount Street  
Old Road  
Stonefield Court



## 15th February

Stonefield Square  
Victor Street  
Victoria Street  
Whitebridge Lane

## 22nd February

Alma Street  
Bromfield Court  
Dominic Court  
Granville Terrace, King's Avenue

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### Parish News Generally THE CHURCH.

" What an improvement! Why one hardly knows the old church again !" Such, and many more, are the expressions of approbation. The universal satisfaction at the way in which our church has been restored is a great comfort and source of satisfaction to those who have given so much time and thought to the work, and its many details. The thought alone that it is for God makes us desire that in everything the material should be of the best, however simple the design. We feel thankful that this has been realized beyond even our hopes. Certainly nothing can be too good to be devoted to His service. But after all the character of the material of the earthly building, though important, is not the most important thing in His sight. Let us then, strive and pray that our church may be not only beautiful but useful; used more by *all* classes. A house of Prayer where God our Heavenly Father may be worshipped " in spirit and in truth." A place of blessing where many may be " born again/" and all be " built up " in the faith and love of His dear Son. These are the Spiritual qualities which, in God's sight, are most precious.

The Re-opening Service will be on Saturday, February 21st, at 3 p.m., when our Bishop will (D.V.) be present and preach. On Sunday, the Special Preachers will be, in the morning, the Rev. Canon Lonsdale, M.A., and in the evening, the "Ven. Sir. L. T. Stamer, Archdeacon.

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When space permits, we will bring you more "news" from 1885.

Does anybody have any other old copies of our church magazine (say, before 1960)? Do let us know.

# FROM THE REGISTERS

## THANKSGIVING

11th January Niamh Sabine Hutchinson  
Freddie Perry

## FUNERALS

18th December Gwendolene Cope Age 79  
6th January Marjorie Alice Simpkin Age 86

### Stafford Crematorium

5th December Muriel May Beatrice Baggalley Age 80  
30th December Annie Dean Age 88

### Bradwell Crematorium

5th December Arthur Stanley Hill Age 90

## SIDESPERSIONS ROTA

	AM		PM
1st February	D. Wilson C. Wilding	A. Greer G. Holden	P. Tunstall
8th February	D. Davies I. Gassor	M. Hutchinson B. Hutchinson	P. Tunstall
15th February	J. Abrahams A. West	T. MacFarlane D. Pickles	P. Tunstall
22nd February	V. Ledward K. Thompson	P. Hipkiss J. Rowlands	P. Tunstall

## FLOWER ROTA

1st February Mrs J. Booth  
8th February Mr & Mrs A. Stone  
15th February Mrs A. Greer  
22nd February Flower Guild



## Christ Church on the Internet

Parish website [www.churches.lichfield.anglican.org/stone/stoneecc](http://www.churches.lichfield.anglican.org/stone/stoneecc)  
Parish office email [christchurch.centre1@btinternet.com](mailto:christchurch.centre1@btinternet.com)

<b>Deanery Synod Reps</b>	Mrs S Hallam, Mr I Hawley, Mr D. Rowlands
<b>P.C.C. Members</b>	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
<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 Circle</b>	Jeanette Rowlands.....816713
<b>Pastoral Care Group</b>	Ann Butler.....818160
<b>Parents &amp; Toddlers</b> (Mon 9.30 – 11.15am)	Sandra Morray.....286093
<b>3rd Stone Brownies</b> (Mon 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 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

## TEARFUND

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

- Sun 1<sup>st</sup> Following the breakdown of peace talks between the **Ugandan** government and the rebel group, the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), the group has moved its attacks over the border into **northern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**. Please pray for the safety of those living in areas affected by the raids and also for those living in Uganda who have returned to camps they have just left, fearing the LRA will return. Please pray also that peace talks will resume and lead to a peaceful and negotiated settlement of the conflict.
- Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> Please continue to pray for the situation in **eastern DRC** where the crisis remains acute. Tearfund is supporting the work of three partners who are bringing aid and basic services to 250,000 displaced people. One of these services is counselling for those who have suffered sexual violence. Please pray for those who have suffered in the fighting and for the success of aid efforts to bring comfort to them. Pray also that peace talks will bring positive results.
- Tue 3<sup>rd</sup> Pray for peace and a swift end to the escalation of violence in **Gaza** that has claimed hundreds of lives. Tearfund does not work in Gaza but is supporting the prayers for peace of its Christian partners in Jordan, Lebanon & Egypt. Pray that voices urging restraint and calm will be heard on both sides and more humanitarian aid can reach those in need.
- Wed 4<sup>th</sup> Please continue to pray for the people of **Zimbabwe**, pray for food, medicine, hope and life. Please pray for protection for those who make the ruling power in Zimbabwe feel threatened, especially those who have been abducted, arrested or harassed.
- Thu 5<sup>th</sup> A coup in December brought a new leader to **Guinea**. Although the seizure of power has been condemned, Captain Camera has promised democratic elections within a year. Please pray that there will be a peaceful transition of leadership and that the people will be able to enjoy freedom and democracy. Please pray also that the Junta keeps its word.

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

**We received a New Year letter from the Lees in January which included a look back on their year and an update of Jigsaw work and the activities of the children** (*see elsewhere in the magazine for excerpts from this letter, and see the red folder under the overseas mission notice board for a full copy of the letter*). **They enjoyed staying in Manila for Christmas and New Year, so no travelling anywhere. The children particularly enjoyed the New Year fireworks which Tim lit with a very, very, long lighting stick!! There was no fresh news otherwise, and no specific prayer requests.**

- Fri 6<sup>th</sup> Continue to pray for Tim's dad who is not well (with cancer and dementia) – that God will comfort him and keep him from pain and that Tim will know when he needs to return to be with him
- Sat 7<sup>th</sup> Pray for the whole Jigsaw team – for strength, wisdom, and joy in being involved in God's work in such a challenging situation. Pray for the money to continue to come in to support Jigsaw's work and the Lee family.
- Sun 8<sup>th</sup> Pray for training opportunities for Jigsaw staff, particularly the management team, to strengthen their skills and understanding.
- Mon 9<sup>th</sup> Pray for continued perseverance for Jeannette who is nearing the end of her four-year social work degree. Pray for her smooth transition in April from being a student to working for Jigsaw.

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

Tracy wrote in mid-January reporting that they had had a good family Christmas at Hebron and Ben was able to join them. He has now returned to uni (and exams) in the UK. Hebron term starts in early February. They ask prayer for -

- Tue 10<sup>th</sup> Health and strength for them all. Tracy has suffered one thing after another over the last three months which is unusual for her and very tiring.
- Wed 11<sup>th</sup> This is a hectic time for A level and GCSE students – staff too! Tracy says 'We need AMAZING GRACE! Pray for it! Steffan and Jonathan will be feeling more pressure for their up and coming exams.
- Thu 12<sup>th</sup> Pray for Ben's current exams and studies, and for his spiritual growth and protection.
- Fri 13<sup>th</sup> Pray for the Lord to begin putting the jigsaw together concerning their future. Tracy would value peace as He directs their path.

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

A Barons' Update arrived mid-January giving news of their great holiday over the winter break when all the family were able to be together at least some of the time, including five days at the beach. There was news that Ralph & Dagmar's flat may not have to be demolished after all. No news of the sports hall extension. Sarah has passed tough medicine exams recently and is coping with her studies and making good progress. Wedding preparations are under way. No news of the court case.

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- Sat 14<sup>th</sup> Give praise that the School's Board of Governors have been able to short-list three people for the post of Principal from the summer. Please pray for preliminary interviews in early February and for the Lord's clear leading. Other staffing remains a concern. They are thankful that they have been able to staff Business Studies and Modern Languages with 6-month volunteer staff for now. Pray for longer-term applicants for these subjects and English in time for August.
- Sun 15<sup>th</sup> Pray for helpers and inspiration for Ralph & Dagmar as they plan another semester of 'Alternative Service' talks on Sunday mornings for those older students who do not choose to attend a church service.
- Mon 16<sup>th</sup> Ralph has been very busy re-designing the Hebron website and researching the feasibility of at least a partial move to Linux. Pray for an additional staff member to join his department. He has been struggling with some restricted mobility and pain in his 'mouse moving' right arm and is on a regime of exercises. Pray he will regain full mobility and find a way of using computers without seizing up.
- Tue 17<sup>th</sup> Pray for Sarah and Keiran as they prepare for marriage and for all the practical details of their wedding, including finding places for family and guests to stay in Brighton over the time of the wedding

### **ANDREW BUTTERWORTH – SOUTH AFRICA**

Andrew e-mailed us in mid-January – 'Thank you for praying. It looks like a Methodist Church right in the heart of Cosmo City is keen to partner with us in a HIV prevention program. It is great because the minister of the church is well respected and could be a great gateway into the other churches in the community. Later this month I am meeting with Cynthia, the Southern African Tearfund representative, who would like to fund our program.'

- Wed 18<sup>th</sup> 'Please pray for great meetings with both Cynthia & Rev. Festus and for the continued research into the best way of delivering an HIV prevention program.'
- Thu 19<sup>th</sup> 'Also pray for a great launch of my church's evening service starting on the 25<sup>th</sup> January.'

**REBECCA – PAKISTAN**

Rebecca e-mailed us on 16<sup>th</sup> January – ‘I was very grateful to be able to take a break in January away from our city and the cold temperatures. By the beginning of February I should hopefully have a new visa and should be back at home.

- Fri 20<sup>th</sup> I am giving thanks for a good rest and holiday in January.
- Sat 21<sup>st</sup> Please pray for peace and stability in our country, both in relation to other countries and internally.
- Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> Please continue to pray that I will be able to build strong relationships with friends in our area and colleagues at work.

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

Stephen & Tabita are involved in a church-planting ministry in Zagreb, Croatia. Stephen is visiting the UK for two or three weeks this month but his Sundays are booked so we probably won’t meet him this time.

- Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> Pray for the Dugo Sela house-group: that people will come, that they will be converted, and that eventually a new church will be started.
- Tue 24<sup>th</sup> Just before Christmas an evangelistic Muzikids (choir) concert was held in Dugo Sela; 180 attended, and everyone was given a New Testament. There was also a ‘Prayer Walk’ through Dugo Sela. Pray that people who attended the concert will want to come to a second event to be held later this year.

Wed 25<sup>th</sup> The American church workers at the Dubrava church have been allowed to stay – this is an answer to prayer. Members of the Dubrava congregation are learning to lead services, preach and generally take on leadership of the church. With the American workers now staying, the need to take full responsibility has receded, but one day the church will have to become self-sufficient. Pray that the local church members have strong faith and discernment to be able to lead the church.

**JONATHAN & ROBINAH BEESIGOMWE – BOTSWANA**

Jonathan and Robinah are involved in student outreach, HIV/AIDS education and ministry to young families. Jonathan asks us to pray:

- Thu 26<sup>th</sup> - for volunteers to help with pre-marital and post-marital counselling;
- Fri 27<sup>th</sup> - for “Gaborone 09 Project” to prepare leaders from 20 families using the “wisdom for fathers and wisdom for mothers” programme;
- Sat 28<sup>th</sup> - that “Family Connections Bows and Arrows” can be registered in Zambia and South Africa;  
 – for reliable and God-motivated financial and prayer partners.