

# Christ Church and People

40p

Parish Magazine of  
Christ Church Stone



*January* 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 Email</b>	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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# In This Issue

# Christ Church



# and People

Diary for January	2, 3
Better together	4
The Joy of Repentance	5
A Fair Trade Christmas?	6, 7
Friends of Shallowford House Quiet Day	7
Why I am a Christian	8-10
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	11
The Power of Testimony	12, 13
Keyboarding with Wycliffe Associates	14
News from Stephen and Tabita Bell	15, 16
The Value is in the Owner	16, 17
Christianity Explored for women	17
Evening of Seasonal Readings and Music	18
Pathfinders	18
Roads for Prayer	19
An Evening with Arthur and Phil	19
Cutting through the undergrowth	19
From the registers	20
Sidespersons and Flower rotas	20

Please get your contributions for the February magazine to us by 15th January.

Cover Story:- Stone Library

# January 2009

Thu	1		
Fri	2		
Sat	3		
Sun	4	9:15am 6:00pm	Communion (Covenant Service) Jeremiah 31:31-37 "A new heart" Evening Prayer at Christ Church Daniel "The Son of Man"
Mon	5	9:00am	Prayers for schools and young people
Tue	6	9:30am 10:00am 10:30am 12:30pm 7:30pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before service Midweek service Seekers Club at Christ Church Middle School Christ Church Youth Club
Wed	7	7:30pm	Standing Committee
Thu	8	1:20pm	Christ Church Middle School assembly
Fri	9	10:00am	Christianity Explored (for women)
Sat	10		
Sun	11	9:15am 6:00pm	Morning Prayer. Jeremiah 33 "A joyful heart" Communion at Christ Church Psalm 18 "The Cornerstone"
Mon	12	9:00am 7:00pm	Prayers for schools and young people Cornerstone for teenagers
Tue	13	9:30am 10:00am 10:30am 12:30pm 7:30pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before service Midweek service Seekers Club at Christ Church Middle School Christ Church Youth Club
Wed	14		
Thu	15	1:20pm 7:45pm	Christ Church Middle School assembly Oulton Missionary Fellowship from MAF (Oulton Church)

# January 2009

Fri	16	10:00am	Christianity Explored (for women)
Sat	17		
Sun	18	9:15am 4:30pm 6:00pm	Communion. Jeremiah 36 "A wicked heart" CTiS AGM at St Michael's Church United Service for Christian Unity (at St Michael's)
Mon	19	9:00am 12:30pm 7:00pm	CTiS prayer meeting at Christ Church CTiS Prayer lunch at St John's, Stone Cornerstone for teenagers
Tue	20	9:30am 10:00am 10:30am 12:30pm 7:30pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before service Midweek service Seekers Club at Christ Church Middle School Christ Church Youth Club
Wed	21	7:30pm	CTiS Taize Worship at St Dominic's
Thu	22	10:30am 1:20pm	CTiS Communion at St Michael's Christ Church Middle School assembly
Fri	23	10:00am 7:30pm	Christianity Explored (for women) CTiS "A taste of Keswick", Christ Church Centre
Sat	24	8:30am 9:00am	CTiS Ecumenical Prayer meeting, Christ Church Breakfast
Sun	25	9:15am 6:00pm 8:00pm	Family Service. Jeremiah 39 "A heart for God" Communion at Christ Church Daniel 1 "Where to draw the line" CTiS Late night worship at St John's, Stone
Mon	26	9:00am	Prayers for schools and young people
Tue	27	9:30am 10:00am 10:30am 12:30pm 7:30pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before service Midweek service Seekers Club at Christ Church Middle School Christ Church Youth Club
Wed	28		
Thu	29	1:20pm	Christ Church Middle School assembly
Frie	30	10:00am	Christianity Explored (for women)
Sat	31		

## Better together

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It's official. We're better together than apart. Research has uncovered how happiness is not an individual choice, but depends on the happiness of others we know.

Social scientists asked people to rate how highly they agreed with various statements about their previous week, such as: 'I was hopeful about the future'. The positive influence of a partner or friend (or even friend of a friend) does us good.

The findings show that what is important is to be rooted in a community. In this respect the loneliest place to live in the British Isles is Holyrood, a rich district of Edinburgh. Holyrood suffers from social fragmentation as a side effect of increased wealth and mobility. Lacking a sense of belonging may account for why having a common project, such as opposing a controversial new building, provides a shared goal and action that gives a feeling of being part of a community group. But protesters aren't necessarily building a healthy community. Differences may be put aside for the time of the project, but resurface later on. A key ingredient of true community is forgiveness. But this requires a change of heart.

The good news of Jesus leads to a change of heart. The members of Jesus' community are made up of those who trust him for their forgiveness. Once forgiven we are to practise forgiveness: grudges and any thought of getting our own back must end. If Christ has welcomed us into his community, then we are to welcome others too. We're not to say of a newcomer: 'not quite our type'! Faith in Jesus gives us an anchor in life and a hope in death. Jesus' followers are to grow in their understanding and practise of both his character and teachings.

Here's a good motto text for the year: *'So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness'* (Colossians 2v6-7). Paul's words convey the idea of development over time. To put these things into practise requires us to dedicate ourselves to knowing the Lord Jesus, building community life with his followers and serving him in the world. With such priorities to shape our lives we will see others drawn to Jesus and his name honoured.

Paul Kingman



## The Joy of Repentance

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A New Year. A Fresh Start. What do you want to change this year?

The end of one year provides an opportunity to look back and look forward. Look back: What were the highlights of 2008? What were the greatest moments? And what were the low points? What things do you hope will change in 2009?

Change is an alluring idea. This world isn't perfect and we long to see improvement. Barack Obama promised change and this message proved highly attractive to the American electorate. Many will be hoping for a change to the financial trouble affecting us all.

Christianity is about change. Jesus preached "Repent" - he called people to follow him and be changed. Becoming a Christian is about a colossal change – we leave the kingdom of darkness and become members of the kingdom of light. Continuing as a Christian is also about change – our behaviour must reflect our changed identity and purpose. Repentance isn't simply the start of the Christian life, it *is* the Christian life. Our whole life is now one of identifying those areas of life that haven't been fully transformed by the gospel, and bringing those areas to Jesus so that his grace and his Spirit can change us.

Christianity is about change – but so often our churches don't reflect this! The story is told of a retiring churchwarden who had served 30 years. "You must have seen many changes" he was asked. "Yes," he replied, "and I've opposed every one."

If we really grasp the wonder of God's grace, we will welcome change. Personal change. The Lord doesn't promise to change our circumstances, but he always offers to change *us*. We always need change. We remain sinners until our dying day, sinners who need to repent. This should not trouble us, because repentance leads to becoming more like Jesus. What joy! Every true Christian longs to be more like Jesus.

Sermons, personal Bible reading, conversation, singing great songs – these and others are occasions when the Spirit may point out sin in our lives and call us to repent. These are often painful but we should welcome this as the route to change. As Proverbs 12:1 put it: "Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates correction is stupid."

May your New Year be full of joyful repentance.

Tim Vasby-Burnie

## A Fair Trade Christmas?

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*(letter from the Bishop of Shrewsbury)*

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, many of us will be rushed off our feet with the usual pre-Christmas celebrations. For some people there will be the office party; for others lunches with friends or colleagues; and for many of us there will be the mad flurry of last minute shopping, stocking up the fridge with food and putting up the decorations.

This is all a far cry from the traditional spirit of the Advent season, which originated as a period fasting and spiritual preparation. The partying and feasting only began on Christmas Day itself and then continued for the twelve days of Christmas, climaxing on the Feast of the Epiphany.

This Christmas may be slightly different. Many people are worried about the possibility of recession with the knock-on effect of cuts in wages or even redundancies. Others are concerned about their mortgages and paying off the debts on their credit cards. For some retired people there is anxiety about reductions in interest rates and how this will affect their income. Retailers are predicting that this Christmas may not be the usual spending bonanza that we have seen in previous years.

But if many people in this country are worried, what about those in poorer parts of the world who are deeply dependent upon their exports to us? They are more vulnerable than we are and are likely to suffer even more than us. Many of them live on or under the bread line and they may go hungry this Christmas because of the world economic crisis. At times of recession there is a danger that we only consider ourselves and argue that charity begins at home. Yet at such times it is even more important to think about those in need. As in previous years many individual Christians and congregations will have special collections this Christmas and we need to give generously. But there is something else we can do which can make a real and significant difference.

Back in 2005 the Lichfield Diocesan Synod passed a motion committing ourselves to become a Fair Trade Diocese. We have recently reaffirmed this commitment at the synod held in October.

*(continued on next page)*

Already a significant minority of churches have gained Fair Trade status, but we need at least 50% of our parishes to do so before we can become a Fair Trade Dioceses. This is not a particularly difficult commitment but if everyone responds to the challenge it will make a real and tangible difference for many people in poorer parts of the world who will be able to work their way out of poverty through their labour and commerce. This commitment also sensitises us to issues of equality and trade and makes us more alert to the difficulties that many people in the world face on a day to day basis.

This Advent will you, as individuals and as churches, join with me in making some quite modest changes to your shopping habits to help those in greatest need?

For further details see [www.lichfield.anglican.org/fairtrade](http://www.lichfield.anglican.org/fairtrade)

Alan Shrewsbury

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**Friends of Shallowford House invite you to a**

## **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**

## Why I am a Christian

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**I lift up my eyes to the hills - where does my help come from?**

**My help comes from the Lord,**

**The maker of heaven and earth. Psalm 121**

I am a Christian because I have chosen a way of life which has at its centre a desire to be in union with God through his son Jesus Christ. It involves my mind, body and soul.

I began life in a loving Christian family and I grew up in a loving Christian church family. When I left home to be a student I sought out a church wherever I lived. I enjoyed the nurturing of other Christians and it helped me to grow in my own Christian faith.

After meeting and marrying Mike and settling down in Stone in Staffordshire I enjoyed a very settled part of my life married, working, and bringing up our two girls. Life was going very smoothly with very little to challenge the status quo.

Mike and I were part of a church in Stone where we experienced great Christian love and witness. Looking back to this time I can now see how God nurtured my Christian faith by other's example. We made deep long lasting friendships at Christchurch, Stone. I had time to explore further my own faith. One way I did this was by meeting for a few months with two other like-minded mums who wanted to deepen their faith. We decided to study St Mark's Gospel together. I think God was trying to tell me something about Himself through this particular gospel as I was already teaching it to the Sunday school over a twelve week period and had studied it through a Christianity Explored study group with other new Christians that same year.

I felt as though I was embarking on another phase of a journey, it was quite different and challenging and I was starting to want to give more and more of my time to God. *(continued on next page)*

I remember looking at the story of the Rich, Young man in Mark's gospel. The question was raised in our study group:- what one thing is more important to you than anything else, is it? wealth, health, power, fame, sport etc

For me at the time it was my fitness and health. It was a focus in my life.

After ten years of life in Stone change came in the form of a career move for Mike and we sold our house and moved to Shipston in the beautiful Warwickshire countryside.

At this time God was starting to become very creative in my life. By this I mean he began to use pictures and verses from the bible, and words given to me by other people to give especial significance. It is only now in retrospect that I can see the way this has happened.

When there is big change coming up in your life and you are uncertain what the future holds you can become anxious and a little wary. I remember visiting the Stone Baptist church one Sunday a month or two before we moved to Shipston. The theme of the service was Discipleship. The church itself was undergoing change as the Minister and his wife were about to move house themselves and to move to another church. The service was emotionally charged and I can recall looking out of the school hall window, the school was built high on a hill with views of the surrounding Staffordshire countryside and town, and I experienced a sense of God's presence. This picture was to stay with me.

Soon after we arrived in Shipston I felt that something life changing was to happen to us very soon and I had a great sense of the Holy Spirit with us in our new home and a sense of God's peace.

I was diagnosed with Bowel cancer about five weeks later. Our lives were turned upside down.

**He will not let your foot slip –  
He who watches over you will not slumber;  
Indeed he who watches over you will neither slumber nor sleep.**

*(continued on next page)*

Out of this shocking news came many good things. Our new house was big enough to accommodate grandparents who came to stay and look after the girls during the hospital treatment.

The great support of friends and family and the church family has been amazing and at times overwhelming.

For me my perspective on life has been transformed and it has been a little like a rebirth for me. I am less restless for what could be and more satisfied with what I have.

When I was visiting my parent's church in Sussex during a service a stranger came up to me, she was in fact a visitor to Horsham herself from France and she said in her broken English, "I have a word for you", she went on, "it is, 'Rest I am not sleeping on your case'".

At first I thought that she was making a comment on my lack of sleep the night before and how tired I looked but I then realised she had had a Word from God to give to me.

At this time I was in the middle of Chemotherapy treatment and expecting to have some more scans as a follow up. I realised from this word this stranger had given me that I was to not be anxious and to give everything to God to work through in his time. It was and is a great encouragement to me. I found the same words and meaning in the Psalm 121 and the words have become very relevant to me as I go through treatment and await scan results.

I have been blessed to be able to see God at work in me, healing me and making me strong. I pray everyday that God will open my eyes, my ears my mind and my heart to his Word. I believe He has so much to give to us if only we can be willing to listen and to act upon it.

I have a journey ahead of me and I am still seeking God's direction here in Shipston for my family and myself. I pray that we all will have ears to hear and eyes to see what it is that God has planned for us.

**The Lord will keep you from all harm-  
He will watch over your life;  
The Lord will watch over your coming and going  
Both now and for evermore.**

Hilary Dumelow

## Churches Together in Stone

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Week of Prayer for Christian Unity    18<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> January

<b><u>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup></u></b> at St Michael's Church	4.30pm
CTiS AGM	
Followed by at	6.30pm
United Service for Christian Unity	
<b><u>Monday 19<sup>th</sup></u></b> at Christ Church	9.00am
Prayer Meeting	
at St John's Stone	12.30pm
Prayer Lunch	
<b><u>Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup></u></b> at Christ Church	10.30am
Holy Communion	
<b><u>Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup></u></b> at St Dominic's Church	7.30pm
Taize Worship	
<b><u>Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup></u></b> at St Michael's Church	10.30am
Holy Communion	
<b><u>Friday 23<sup>rd</sup></u></b> at Christ Church	7.30pm
A Taste of Keswick	
<b><u>Saturday 24<sup>th</sup></u></b> at Christ Church	8.30am
Ecumenical Prayer Meeting	
Followed by Breakfast	
<b><u>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup></u></b> at St John's Church Stone	8.00pm
Late Night Worship	

## The Power of Testimony

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In law, a testimony in a trial is where a witness describes what they saw - they remember what happened so justice may be served. In the Christian context a testimony is a 'speaking out' of something special that God has done in the past, something that we want to remember, a reminder of God's love and provision or perhaps His supernatural intervention at some time of great need.

The Jewish festivals in the Old Testament were a kind of testimony, an annual reminder to the nation of Israel of the way God had delivered them and provided for them – for example the Passover festival reminded them of God's miraculous intervention to enable their escape from slavery in Egypt. Similarly today our Christian festivals remind us of a special time when God was manifestly at work in our world, showing His love and power – Christmas, Easter, Pentecost etc.

These tell us of major interventions by God to influence and affect nations and all of humanity. God also works at a personal level, where His provision or power transforms an individual, and then their personal testimony spoken out can have a great effect on those who hear it. There are several instances in the New Testament where someone's testimony bore witness to what Jesus had done (eg the demon-possessed man in Mark 5 20 '*So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed*'). There is power in testimony, particularly when it is personal to the person telling it. This power is from God who uses the words we speak to bring change to those around us. In fact words are incredibly powerful – our world was brought into being with words: “*And God said*” precedes each of the major acts of creation in Genesis chapter 1.

On the other hand, with instant global communication, and 24 hour TV news channels, there is another type of testimony that is all around us today - the negative testimony of how bad the world is and how things are getting worse. Its effect can be strong in a very disheartening and discouraging way.

*(continued on next page)*

We are saturated with messages of hopelessness about our world and the people who live in it. I don't know the reason why we are so attracted to bad news – newspapers have to sell, and so they put in articles that people want to read, and nearly always they are about crime, violence, war, conflict. In fact it seems that where people agree then that isn't news at all, there must be disagreement – just listen to the Today programme on Radio Four and hear how the interviewers always home in on areas of dispute, and if there is harmony, the item is quickly ended.

n Romans 8:5-6 Paul talks of our minds being set on the natural world or the world of God's Spirit - it could perhaps be paraphrased as 'Look at what God is doing, not what He isn't doing'. Phillipians 4:8 expresses a similar sentiment. We are all influenced by what we feed our minds on, and today it is all too easy to see nothing but negative things around us, and to let that cloud our outlook and confidence in God's power and love.

If we care to look, we can see and find out about the good things God is doing - not in the mainstream media where most of us get our news from, but from other sources that many of us can now readily access via the Internet, where there are a multitude of websites and podcasts which show that God is alive and well and doing quite astonishing things in people's lives around the world. Certainly discernment is needed here – the internet is full of lots of information (true and false) a certain amount of knowledge, but wisdom is usually very well hidden!

It is January, the start of a new year, and I'm not one for new year resolutions, but I certainly will be seeking out good news and trying not to soak my mind with the discouragement and despair that the media continually try to drown us in. I hope that in my conversations I might be positive, not negative, not talking up the bad tidings, but more the evidence of God's goodness and the opportunities He gives us to be salt and light. Isaiah 52:7 reminds us: *'How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion "Your God reigns!"'*

Tim Saxton

It must be twelve or more years ago that I first heard about the opportunity to help with Bible translation work by keyboarding Scripture. In those days it was to enable words, phrases, or letters, to be changed in the keyboarded Scripture to provide a very basic first draft of Scripture for closely-related languages.

The first step to involvement saw me obtaining a computer and learning how to use it – I was, and still am, rather computer illiterate as Dave Bell will tell you!! Having done this, the next step was to approach Wycliffe Associates to be allocated to a keyboarding team and then, in due course, I received my first chapters to keyboard together with detailed instructions as to how to keyboard it – and the instruction not to guess if I didn't know how to do something – I must ask my team leader – and I do!!

The task has changed now so we are keyboarding Scripture and books in languages where translation has been done but only exists on paper and so is liable to deteriorate over time, or be eaten by rats or termites, or burnt, or get washed away, or just lost. Electronic copies are more durable! Keyboarded Scripture can also be adapted as before to enable first draft translations. This project is called the 'Worldwide Electronic Bible and Book Service' or WEBBS for short. It was reported recently that WEBBS has completed 299 projects to date, including 26 whole Bibles and 93 New Testaments. There are around 400 keyboarders in the UK, US and the Netherlands.

I find it a privilege to be able to help with the translation task in this way and wonder whether others in the church family would like to join me in this task. At present I am keyboarding Hebrews 13 in Mopan Maya, a language with 8,000 mother-tongue speakers in Belize and Guatemala. There are plans to put the Mopan Maya New Testament on the Internet so as to make it more widely available.

Interested in doing something like this? There's no upper or lower age-limit, but you do need a computer and an e-mail facility. I'd love to show you what it involves. Just ask me.

*Cecilia Wilding*

## News from Stephen and Tabita Bell

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(Stephen and Tabita work in Zagreb, Croatia, with European Christian Mission)

Dear Friends,

Here is a little update for praise and prayer and a little background info. Thanks for all you work and love towards us.

### Stephen & Tabita Bell, Dubrava Croatia

- **Church services** - Thanks for your prayers for God's presence in our services. We are really feeling the joy of the Lord and attendances are in the seventies. An answer to prayer. We are asking the Lord for 20 more new Christians and average congregations of 100 by Summer 2009.
- **Music Group** - Exciting developments. We bought a synthesizer which our 12 yr daughter Sheona now plays alongside Tabita on the piano. We also were able to buy Branko a semi acoustic guitar as well. Now Daniel, who played drums at the mother church is willing to play drums. Please pray we can finance 900 pounds for an electric drum set.
- **Evangelistic planning** - We have a 4 month plan for evangelism in the New Year, involving training all church members & evangelistic Sunday services leading up to ProChrist at the end of March. Please pray that we are a) visited by God, inspired, daring and obedient in our planning, b) that members are excited, motivated and successful in their evangelism and most of all that c) new Christians are added to the church.
- **Dugo Selo churchplant** - We as a church are committed to give all our energy to the churchplant... which doesn't exist at the moment! Pray for our Muzikids children's choir concerts in Dugo Selo.

(continued on next page)

- **FEEDBACK:** I was really excited yesterday evening as I walked through the door into our recently opened housegroup in Ivanja Reka. Really live and joyous singing wafted through the door and also I detected somehow a synthesizer and great guitar playing! As I entered the room I saw 11 others including some of the youth and including a young man (Tomislav) I had never met before! We had a great evangelistic bible study on Jesus choosing his disciples (end of John 1, actually planned). I say this to point out that God is moving here and please pray we can follow God's initiatives.

Many thanks for us all!

Stephen, Tabita and the Dubrava church

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## **The Value is in the Owner**

The story is told of a tourist in Paris who picked up an amber necklace in a trinket shop. When he arrived at the airport and went through customs he was shocked at the high duty he had to pay for the necklace. So when he got home, he spoke with a jeweller and the jeweller told him he would give £50,000 for the necklace. The man was stunned and suspected that there was a reason for the offer. So he took the necklace to an expert who valued it at an astronomical amount.

When he asked the expert what made the necklace so valuable, he told him to look into the magnifying glass and see for himself.

When he placed his eye next to the glass, he saw an inscription which read: "From Napoleon Bonaparte to Josephine."

It was the name on the necklace that gave it extraordinary worth.

We have no intrinsic value -- that is to say, we are not of great value because of who we are or what we've accomplished. Our value is determined by the One who bought us and owns us.

*(continued on next page)*

## The Value is in the Owner *(continued)*

Those of us who are Christians have the name of Christ "stamped" on our lives to remind us who we are and whose we are. Knowledge of this truth causes us to rethink what we do with our lives.

For example, if you have an old pair of ragged trainers, you may think nothing of getting out in a muddy garden to do some work. But if you're wearing an expensive pair of shoes, you'll be hesitant to wear them in the mud. The value of what you're wearing will keep you from going certain places and doing certain things.

Paul says that's why we as Christians should avoid sexual immorality (as well as other misuses of the body). If our bodies were of little value (as some believe), we would think nothing of "dragging them through the mud." But knowing the value of our bodies, we're forced to think twice about where we go and what we do.

"For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." (I Cor. 6:20).

Look closely at the inscription on your life. You'll notice the name of JESUS CHRIST, the one who bought you and owns you. Your value just went up!  
From Mike Thompson

THE ULTIMATE DISCOVERY

CHRISTIANITY  
EXPLORED

**Beginning Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2009**

**All women welcome**

This popular course is suitable either as an introduction or as a refresher to the Christian faith.

**Friday morning 10am – 12pm  
at Christ Church Centre  
Crèche provided.**

**Contact:**

Sue Kingman (812669)

Caroline Vasby-Burnie (814244)

Helen Clare Rushton (813654)

## Evening of Seasonal Readings and Music

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Surely a new Christ Church tradition has been instituted! Once again Diana's excellent organisational skills helped to give us a memorable and enjoyable evening. One moment we were laughing at a reading from Gervase Phinn (read by Ann), then horrified and amused by Valerie's account of "doing the Bird" at Christmas, which was not about the turkey.

Roger told us about 16th century English carols, and played some of them, and Paul sang a carol to us.

Helen-Clare gave us the low-down on how Christmas is spent in the state of Mississippi, involving lots on sweet-sounding food and on one occasion, turning on the air-conditioning so that it was possible to sit in front of a coal fire.

The music, singing, dancing and readings and a talk, were thought-provoking and entertaining.

The food was excellent and the company genial. Our thanks to all who contributed, and to Diana and Phil for organising the evening.

Enid Bell

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### Pathfinders

Pathfinders enjoyed watching a film with popcorn and mini-doughnuts, when the Centre was turned into a cinema for an evening on November 28th - thanks very much Adam for organising the film.

Pathfinders restarts on 11th of January.

# ROADS FOR PRAYER

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## 4th January

Airdale Grove  
Airdale Road  
Lotus Court  
Nicholls Lane

## 11th January

Airdale Spinney  
Cross Street  
Old Road  
Old Road Close

## 18th January

The Crescent  
End of Granville Terrace  
Millers Gate  
Harley Drive

## 25th January

Chestnut Grove  
Edward Street  
Field Terrace  
Field House Court




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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:

- ü Sale of the plants & pots of spring bulbs
- ü Guessing games to play – great prizes to win 50p a go
- ü 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.

All proceeds to the church general fund.

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## **Cutting through the Undergrowth**

Theodore Roosevelt used to chop wood or go hiking when he tired of constant meetings. Indeed it was good fun to prune overgrown plants in the churchyard on December 7th, especially since the pruning was in most cases rather drastic. We uncovered a fence not seen for years, as well as many beverage containers under a rhododendron bush. Pete, wielding a chainsaw and wearing all the appropriate safety equipment, hacked at the undergrowth and generated enough firewood to keep many a stove burning through Christmas. The rest of us were armed only with knives, saws and secateurs but still made an impact. There was tea and cake (thank you!) and by lunchtime we all felt reinvigorated and able to face some more meetings.

Dave Bell

# FROM THE REGISTERS

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## BAPTISM

7th December Kate Latham

## FUNERALS

17th November Margaret Alice Jordan aged 97  
 25th November Marjorie Ruth Cook aged 87

## SIDESPERSIONS ROTA

	<u>Morning</u>		<u>Evening</u>
4th January	D. Wilson C. Wilding	A. Greer G. Holden	D. Shemilt
11th January	B. Hutchinson I. Gassor	M. Hutchinson D. Davies	P. Tunstall
18th January	J. Abrahams A. West	T. MacFarlane D. Pickles	
25th January	V. Ledward K. Thompson	P. Hipkiss J. Rowlands	P. Tunstall

## FLOWER ROTA

4th January Flower Guild  
 11th January Mrs C. Jacques  
 18th January Mrs Buckley  
 25th January Flower Guild



### Christ Church on the Internet

Parish website [www.churches.lichfield.anglican.org/stone/stonecc](http://www.churches.lichfield.anglican.org/stone/stonecc)  
 Parish office email [christchurch.centre1@btinternet.com](mailto:christchurch.centre1@btinternet.com)  
 Magazine contributions [christchurch\\_mag@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:christchurch_mag@yahoo.co.uk)

<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>Friday "Little Fishes"</b> (Fri 11am – 1.30pm)	Cecilia Wilding.....817987
<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 week in the Centre during term time.

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

## THE MAGAZINE TEAM

**Mission News& Prayer Diary**      Cecilia Wilding      817987

**Please send material for the magazine to**

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

# Christ Church welcomes you!

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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