

# Christ Church and People

40p



# June

Parish Magazine of  
Christ Church Stone

# 2008

# PARISH DIRECTORY

---

## SUNDAY SERVICES

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

**Young people's activities** take place in the Centre at 9.15 am  
(see page 21 for details)

---

## 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>Electoral Roll Officer</b>	Irene Gassor	814871
<b>Parish Office</b>	Christ Church Centre, Christ Church Way, Stone, Staffs ST15 8ZB Email christchurch.centre1@btinternet.com	811990
<b>Deaconess (Retired)</b>	Ann Butler	818160
<b>Readers</b>	David 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
--------------------------	-----------------	----------	--------

---

## CHURCH SCHOOLS

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

Head: Mrs Lynne Croxall B.Ed.(Hons) 354125

Christ Church C.E.(Aided) Middle School, Old Road

Head: C. Waghorn B.Ed(Hons),DPSE,ACP,FRSA 354047

# In This Issue

# Christ Church



Diary for June	2, 3
Is that it?	4
Ecclesiastical Expeditionary Force	5
The Reason for God (book review)	6
Letter from Bishop of Wolverhampton	7, 8
Thank you from Nigel Massey	9
Sermon Series in June	9
Summer School of Prayer	9
Being a PCC Member	10
Christ Church First School	11
Mission News	12, 13
My 2008 London Marathon	14, 15
Parent and Toddler Group	16
Jack's Plant Sale	16
Little Fishes - Friday Toddler Group	17
Climbers Sunday School	17
Youth Club for all ages	18
News from Stephen and Tabita Bell	18
Thai Meal 27/04/08	19
Roads for Prayer	19
From the Registers	20
Sidespersons and Flower Rotas	20

## and People

Please get your contributions for the July magazine to us by 15th June.

Cover Story:- King's Avenue

# June 2008

Sun	1	9:15am 6:00pm	Communion. James 1:1-12 "Persevering under trials" Evening Prayer at Oulton. Hebrews 10:1-14 "His resurrection"
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	Christ Church First School assembly in Church Coffee before midweek service Midweek service Seekers Club at Christ Church Middle School Youth Club in the Centre
Wed	4		
Thu	5	1:20pm	Christ Church Middle School assembly
Fri	6		Christ Church First School visit to Lichfield Cathedral
Sat	7	8:30am 9:00am	Prayer Meeting in Church Breakfast in the Centre
Sun	8	9:15am 6:30pm	Morning Prayer James 1:13-27 "A Godly life" CTiS Songs of Praise at St. Michael's Church
Mon	9	9:00am 7:00pm	Prayers for schools and young people Cornerstone for teenagers
Tue	10	10:00am 10:30am 12:30pm 1:45pm 7:30pm	Coffee before midweek service Midweek service Seekers Club at Christ Church Middle School Christ Church First School service in Church Youth Club in the Centre
Wed	11		
Thu	12		
Fri	13		
Sat	14		
Sun	15	9:15am 6:00pm	Communion James 2:1-13 "How to treat others" Evening Prayer at Oulton Psalm 36 "His steadfast love"

# June 2008

Mon	16	9:00am 7:00pm	Prayers for schools and young people Cornerstone for teenagers
Tue	17	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 Youth Club in the Centre
Wed	18	7:30pm	Summer School of Prayer in the Centre
Thu	19	1:20pm	Christ Church Middle School assembly
Fri	20		
Sat	21	5:00pm	Church Social - games and BBQ (see page 18)
Sun	22	9:15am 10:15am 6:00pm	Family Service James 3:1-12 "Verbal cyanide" Fair Trade stall in the Centre Communion at Oulton Psalm 37 "Waiting without fretting"
Mon	23	9:00am 7:00pm	Prayers for schools and young people Cornerstone for teenagers
Tue	24	9:30am 10:00am 10:30am 12:30pm 7:00pm 7:30pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before midweek service Midweek service Seekers Club at Christ Church Middle School Institution of Rev Jane Tillier at Barlaston Church Youth Club in the Centre
Wed	25		
Thu	26	1:20pm	Christ Church Middle School assembly
Fri	27		
Sat	28		
Sun	29	9:15am 6:00pm	Morning Prayer: James 2:14-26 "When is faith real?" Communion at Oulton Psalm 38 "Looking to the Saviour"
Mon	30	9:00am 7:00pm	Prayers for schools and young people Cornerstone for teenagers

## **Is that it?**

---

As I write we've just finished celebrating Pentecost and Ascension – another round of the church festivals is over. The church has done its partying and could seem like a burnout firework. We may wonder: *Is that it?*

No, that is not it and this is why. God's plan for the world did not come to a grinding halt once Jesus went back to heaven. The church year of festivals is not like a computer game which, once we reach 'game over,' can be re-run with just a click of the mouse to take us back to the Christmas jingle signalling a new game!

Jesus said history is heading towards 'the end of the age' at his return. It will be the end of this age: the time of Christ's activity to change peoples lives even running alongside the power of sin ruining all that it has infected will come to an end. Jesus said that prior to his return there would be all sorts of impostors who will deceive many. There will also be lots of disruption: *'Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth-pains'* (Mt 24v7).

In the recent news there have been two major disasters: Burma's cyclone and China's earthquake. There have been awful scenes of devastated communities. It is difficult to imagine how the people are coping or how they will recover from these traumatic events. We support Christian relief agencies to express our sympathy. But we also long for the return of Christ as on that day a new age will start which will mark the end of disasters and all effects of the fall. Could the disasters and extreme weather conditions be signs that Christ's return may be sooner than we think?

In the light of this we are to take action and get ready: *'Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come'* (Mt 24v42). We are to live with Christ as our Lord, serve him and be in a constant state of readiness for his return. The ball is in our court (to use a tennis expression). Sunday services are designed to help us turn to Christ and nurture our relationship with him and his people. Let's enjoy our summer activities, but also to 'keep watch' and continue to be ready. This summer could bring the greatest surprise of all time. Are you ready?

Paul Kingman.



## **Ecclesiastical Expeditionary Force**

---

The great missionary Bishop Leslie Newbigin once described the Church of God in these words:

“the Church is ... something sent into the world, the continuation of Christ's mission from the Father, something which is not so much an institution as an expedition sent to the ends of the earth in Christ's name”. He was right, for as Jesus told his disciples: “Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.” (John 20:21)

There is a big difference between being an established institution and an expeditionary force! Just ask the Marines:

“We are by our nature “expeditionary.” This means several things. It means a high level of readiness; we can go at a moment's notice. It means our organization, our equipment, our structures are designed to allow us to deploy very efficiently. We don't take anything we don't need. We're lean, we're slim, we're streamlined. ... It's a mind-set, too, about being ready to go, about being ready to be deployed, and about flexibility. We can easily and quickly move from fighting to humanitarian operations.”

- n We who are Christians in and around Stone need to hear this, and it makes no difference that our theatre of operations happens to be where we live, rather than in a desert in the Middle East. So here are a few questions to get those little grey cells working. If our church buildings burned down and we had to meet in a village hall or in people's living rooms, what would we *have* to do the same and what could we change?
- n What is *vital* for church life and what is cherished tradition which, even if helpful, is not essential?
- n What do we grumble about? If we had an expeditionary mind-set, might these issues change?
- n Do we understand ourselves as consumers (going to church to get what we want) or warriors (seeking to be equipped by God for his mission)?

On May 8<sup>th</sup> the Times newspaper reported yet more figures showing the decline of Christianity in this country. Faced with decline most institutions respond with a combination of denial, panic, endless committees and centralisation. An Ecclesiastical Expeditionary Force prays, feeds on the Word and gets marching. “Take heart! I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

Tim Vasby-Burnie

## Review of Tim Keller's *The Reason for God*

---

The last few years have seen a number of best-selling books arguing against the existence of God, such as Dawkins' *The God Delusion*. A few months ago a new book was published arguing *for* God. Unlike the others, this one deserved to be a best-seller and has reached #7 on the New York Times Best Sellers list.

*The Reason for God* is the work of Tim Keller, who in the late '80s planted a church in New York which now numbers some 5,000 and has planted dozens of other churches. He has spent years talking to young, sceptical New Yorkers, trying to understand their view and explain the Christian good news in a way they can connect with.

### Who is this book for?

- n For those with honest doubts about Christianity (e.g. The existence of God, the resurrection) but who have the humility to doubt their own doubts.
- n For Christians who have questions – so that's all of us!
- n For Christians to want to better help others believe in God.

Part 1 explores 7 common questions that Tim Keller has faced again and again, and answers them brilliantly. You will find quotes from Bono to Dostoevsky, but more importantly a great sympathy with the issues behind the questions. The seven chapters are:

1. There can't be just *one* true religion
2. How could a good God allow suffering?
3. Christianity is a straitjacket
4. The church is responsible for so much injustice
5. How can a loving God send people to hell
6. Science has disproved Christianity
7. You can't take the Bible literally

After an intermission, the second half of the book gives positive reasons for Christian faith. Again, these are superb. This book has been described as C.S. Lewis' *Mere Christianity* for a new generation; appealing to both mind and heart, Keller wants to promote a non-sectarian Christianity that is good news for this world now as well as the future. I will be placing an order with one of the few British book sellers to stock this book, so do please see me if you want to have a look at a copy or place an order. *Reason for God* sells for £12 each but I hope to arrange a discount. For more information see also the website [www.thereasonforgod.com](http://www.thereasonforgod.com)

Tim Vasby-Burnie

## **Sceptical secular society still hungers for authentic Christian witness**

---

Others will disagree but I thought that the BBC did a fine job with their Holy Week drama “The Passion”. Broadcast on four prime time slots, it was clearly aimed at a wider audience than the religious cognoscenti and was all the better for that. Too often films of Jesus’ life have suffered from being overly pietistic. As a religious professional it would be easy to pick holes with this aspect of the script or that character portrayal, but for me the lasting impression was of a story told reverently yet imaginatively, accessibly yet intelligently, and with acting of depth and power. The finale on Easter Sunday with its sensitive and moving treatment of the Resurrection appearances was a fitting conclusion. My sense that this production will have engaged and inspired many who are not committed Christians has been reinforced by what I have read on the blogs and in the newspaper columns of critics not known for their partiality to religious broadcasting.

It is interesting to reflect on the apparent dichotomy between the generally warm reception amongst the secular media granted to a pretty straightforward account of the events surrounding Jesus’ crucifixion and resurrection, and the prevailing climate of hostility and suspicion towards religion, characterised by the presence of secular materialists like Richard Dawkins and Christopher Hitchens at the top of the best seller lists. One of the strongest aspects of “The Passion” was its portrayal of Jesus’ conflict with the political and religious institutions of his day and it is surely here that a clue to unravelling this apparent contradiction can be found.

Jesus, the fearless man of God, inspirational teacher and holistic healer, embodiment of the virtues of truth and goodness and love, heroic adversary of greed, corruption and vice, continues to command, in marketing speak, massive “crossover appeal”. Widely revered amongst other faith traditions, his example and teaching continues to inspire and fascinate many who have not made a faith commitment but who identify strongly with Christian ethics. From the evangelistic point of view there is huge encouragement to be found in the sense of connectedness that so many people still have with the historical Jesus. The challenge lies in the increasing sense of disconnectedness that people have towards institutions, be they political, civic or religious. *(continued on next page)*

## **Sceptical secular society still hungers for authentic Christian witness**     *(continued)*

---

Jesus was no friend of institutions. He was the charismatic leader of a dynamic missionary movement intent on spreading, via word and deed, the good news of God's love and care for all people and inspiring his followers to commit themselves to lives of service and witness to God. The purity and power of Jesus' message has often been warped and sullied through our human failings as his followers and, when these failings are writ large as in the present conflicts within the Anglican Communion, an unmissable target is presented to those who see only the negative aspects of religion.

And yet those of us privileged to have an overview of the life of many different Christian communities know that the reality is that the power and purity of the gospel message is being channelled into the life of our nation through countless acts of selfless love and service. At the start of Holy Week, following a service that I had led in a parish church, I was asked to pray with a member of the congregation who was terminally ill. Afterwards the man, a relatively recent attendee, spoke powerfully of the love and care he and his wife had received from the vicar and lay members of the congregation. One example, representative of countless others.

At this time of the Church's year we are inspired by the accounts in the Acts of the Apostles of the birth and exponential growth of the early Church. Still a movement rather than an institution, the growth was fuelled by lives which dynamically reflected Jesus' presence and priorities ("See how these Christians love one another"). Modern secular society may be sceptical of religion but there is no reason to believe that there is any less hunger for, or receptiveness to, authentic Christian witness.

Clive Gregory

(Bishop of Wolverhampton)

## **“Thank you” from Nigel Massey**

---

One of the last jobs that mum gave me to do was to "Make sure we send a thank you note to Oulton and Christ Church Newsletters!" She wanted everyone to know how much she was uplifted by your prayers, cards and good wishes during her last illness. When she was in pain, she had a palpable sense that your prayers were helping her through. Thanks to you, her last months were a time when she was able to see how much people loved her and cared for her.

I'd also like to add my own thanks and the thanks of her family to hers. You gave her a wonderful send-off from Christ Church, and the reception which followed the service was a time when so many happy memories were shared that it felt like a real party and a celebration of her life. It brought us all a deep comfort that those whom we have loved but see no longer are still a part of our lives, and will continue to be so in the years to come. A very sincere and heartfelt thank you again. I very much hope to see you when I'm in Stone over the summer!

Revd. Nigel Massey

---

### **Sermon series in June.**

During the mornings at Christ Church and Oulton we will explore James' letter to a group of churches. Described by the Reformer Martin Luther as 'a right strawy epistle' for its apparent lack of substance, we're glad it is in the Bible since its teaching about practical Christian faith is entirely consistent with Jesus' teaching. It reads more like a preacher's sermon notes: he addresses his readers directly and uses homely illustrations about horses and ships, as well as rhetorical questions (do you want to be shown?). James shows us what happens to '*the implanted word*' of God when it takes root.

At Moddershall and during the evening services we will look at some of the Psalms under the title '*the meek will inherit the earth.*' Psalms 36-41 look at godly people living through ungodly circumstances.

---

### **Summer School of Prayer**

During the summer we are providing an opportunity to learn and grow in Christian prayer during four Wednesday evenings. This is a privilege to enjoy and a discipline to develop. The remainder of the meetings will be in Christ Church Centre 7.30-8.30 p.m. on:

Weds 18<sup>th</sup> June    Weds 30<sup>th</sup> July    Weds 27<sup>th</sup> August

Do come if you can for all or some of the meetings.

## Being a PCC Member

---

I'm not a person who particularly enjoys going to meetings, I go to as few as possible, but the PCC is different.

Firstly we only meet once every two months, so you aren't snowed under with meetings. Secondly we often laugh, always pray and regularly encourage one another, at these meetings.

I first joined Christ Church PCC when I was running the two toddler groups and I'm now starting my 8<sup>th</sup> year as a PCC member. I joined initially because I felt the children - and toddler groups in particular - needed a voice on the PCC as we were often overlooked in the decision making process. At this time, also, the new centre was being built and we would be making regular use of its facilities. Again the toddler groups needed a chance to be heard in decisions that would affect us.

As a PCC member I have a chance to speak out and voice my opinion and the opinion of others I speak to in the Church.

Being on the PCC gives me a better understanding of the internal workings of the Church; what special services we hold, why and how much money is needed, where the money goes, how we can encourage people both inside and outside the Church, what events we put on and why, what changes we need to make and why etc.

The members of the PCC come from varied walks of life and we get to hear other people's points of view, opinions and ideas. We discuss and prayerfully make decisions about what goes on at Christ Church and further afield. It helps me appreciate the often unnoticed hard work church members put in behind the scenes and makes me aware of the varied talents of the members of our congregation.

Finally, I find being a member of the PCC gives me great encouragement in my walk with Jesus and helps to strengthen my faith as at every meeting there is usually something to praise and thank God for. It makes me realise we have to totally depend on God for everything, especially in making decisions large or small.

As Paul says in 1 Thessalonians 5:11 'Therefore encourage one another and build each other up' The PCC members are playing their part in that, not only for each other, but for every member of Christ Church and the people of Stone and beyond.

Estella Woodhead

We are enjoying many new experiences and initiatives and once again we are being carried by a tide of enthusiasm!

Year 4 children have benefitted from the visits of one of our County music teachers, Mrs Norcliffe. Mrs Norcliffe has spent 3 Friday mornings with us sharing her expertise and enthusiasm for music from different cultures. First we studied African music with its infectious beat and next, our studies took us to India. Finally, we arrived in China, musically speaking!

Our Football Team is currently training in readiness for their forthcoming matches involving Manor Hill and the Alleyne's Tournament, which promises to be a very exciting fixture, involving teams from St Michael's and Pirehill Schools. We wish them all luck.

Children from Year 3 and Year 4 enjoyed a residential visit for 3 days to Standon Bowers Outdoor Education Centre. This is a Centre which caters for all aspects of outdoor education, taught by a team of experts. The children were able to experience activities such as climbing, caving and orienteering. Visits such as these are excellent for children to develop team work and cooperation as well as increasing their independence and social skills....to say nothing of the experience they gained in hoovering and washing up as they shared 3 days together... or did Mr. Hindhaugh forget to mention these activities?!!! The children returned to school with memories which will last for many years of this very enjoyable and valuable opportunity. We now await the photographs!

On Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June our Year 4 children will visit 'Open Door' at Lichfield Cathedral, this is an exciting day where we share different experiences inside the cathedral and join with other schools for worship and song.

Janet Booth-- Early Years Coordinator.

**Tim & Kate LEE with Rebekah, James and Grace** working amongst street children and families in Manila, the Philippines, have just sent out their sixth issue of 'Jigsaw News' (copy in red folder on cupboard under the Overseas Mission notice board in the Centre). The following are two brief excerpts from the News:

A definite highlight of the last few months has been the new centre in Batasan which opened in February this year. They write – 'At the end of 2007, Jigsaw was without a centre in Batasan in which to hold our kids clubs as the old centre had been bulldozed down. We had searched and searched but finding a place big enough and not too far away from where the kids lived seemed an impossibility. BUT, nothing is impossible for God and by the end of January a place had become available just round the corner from our previous building. And what's more it is bigger, brighter and actually more central. God is truly an amazing provider. Now each week the centre is bursting full of children all enjoying playing with toys and worshiping God. We have so many mums coming that it's difficult to fit them all in! The centre may not look flashy or big to western eyes but for the children it's a fantastic play centre where they are important, special and loved.'

In November last year a 'Praxis' visit, organised by CMS specially for Link Churches, such as ourselves, took place and was deemed a great success. Kate wrote - 'We wanted this trip to be focused on sharing with and encouraging our Filipino staff who work day in and day out at Jigsaw. Often short-term trips are aimed at the foreigner doing something for the host country, but we felt that on this occasion what was most needed was encouragement for our staff to keep going. Each member of the Praxis team did just that and the empowerment felt by the Jigsaw team was amazing. The Jigsaw team still looks fondly back on the Praxis trip as a real time of blessing, fun and encouragement. It has definitely forged closer links with many of our link churches and supporters in the UK. While here the Praxis team not only encouraged but brought with them, puppets, new songs, new ideas, a computer! And one team member's church donated a huge sum of money towards a new van. But what is most wonderful is to see God at work in the UK and the Philippines and have a real sense that we are partners in spreading God's love with children who are desperately in need.' *(continued on next page)*

(It's such a pity that no-one from Christ Church was able to go on that trip. Perhaps another time?!!)

Tim, Kate and the children will be with us on **Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> July** – make a note in your diary. It's the same date as Pete and Liz Mason's trains-in-the-garden event to raise money for Jigsaw.

**Owen HUMPHREYS** e-mailed us recently with news of the family and Hebron School, South India where the Humphreys and Baron families live and work. He said:

- 'Many staff are very tired, a bit stressed and generally run down after a long term.' He asks us to pray for God's strength and grace .... especially as reports soon need to be written. And pray for a restful summer break which starts in mid-June.
- 'We still have some key teaching positions for next term unfilled. These include business studies, drama, and we could do with an experienced teacher able to teach A level physics.'
- 'Ben (their oldest son, in the UK for his gap year before university in the autumn) was not kept on at JJB sports after his initial 6 months. He started a part-time job in a petrol station in early May.' Ben is going to spend part of the summer break with the family in India.
- The court case brought by a former member of school staff against the School has still not been heard. It is now officially summer recess in India, so the court shuts down for two months. Not only that but the judge who was hearing the case has been promoted and transferred and so a new judge will hear the case.

**Ralph & Dagmar BARON** with possibly Simon, plan to be with us the **week-end 19/20 July**. They will tell us more about Hebron School and the valuable work done there to enable parents to continue with the work God has called them to, often in remote situations, while their children receive a first-rate education.

Cecilia Wilding

*(news from Stephen and Tabita Bell is on page 18)*

## My 2008 London Marathon Experience

---

Approaching Canada Water railway station on the morning of the race I was aware that everyone around seemed to be a runner with the same destination in mind. It was then that I stopped worrying about the possibility of losing my way, and just followed the throng. If I thought the train was busy, then I hadn't realised what was waiting at the other end when I arrived at Greenwich. The scene seemed to resemble the start of a Wembley cup final, with multitudes all flocking to the same goal. There was no chance now of getting lost, and I concentrated on finding a portaloos without a mile-long queue.

As I was running with Team MSRC for the Multiple Sclerosis Resource Centre, all the running number for our team ran consecutively. Consequently several of the competitors in this area were kitted out in similar green running tops to me, and I was able to meet and say hello to members of my team who I had never met before. The efficient organisation had arranged us all into different starting sections, whereby runners with an anticipated faster finishing time started ahead of the slower ones and the costumed runners. Sure enough, after the horn had sounded, we shuffled forwards and I crossed the starting line only 60 seconds later. Amazingly, due to the efficiency of the starting procedure, after only a couple more minutes I found myself in full stride. Having heard horror stories about it taking up to 20 minutes to get going properly, I was elated, and started out on my aim to finish in as little over 3½ hours as possible, and hopefully not more than 4. For the first 7 or 8 miles I was perfectly on target, and had caught up on the slow start to achieve my 3:35 time. After 11½ miles I was thrilled to spot my family waving enthusiastically along the Jamaica Road. What a boost that gave my flagging limbs, and I was on a high for the next 10 minutes, running with a big stupid grin all over my face!

Shortly after this, disaster struck. There had been a heavy downpour after about an hour of the race, and the ground was very wet. I still can't recall exactly what happened or how. Perhaps I tripped over a walker in front of me. Perhaps I was too busy waving to the crowds on the bridges overhead. I don't really believe the reports that I was tripped by Gordon Ramsey, who had been worried about another caterer finishing ahead of him!

But what I can remember was falling headlong and seeing the floor coming up at me. My head connected with a sickening thud, and my immediate thought was that my race was over. This seemed to be confirmed by the feeling of my blood pumping out of a hole in my head just above my left eyebrow. I rolled over onto my back with a strange feeling of relief, as at least I could now relax after about 2½ hours of punishing running. Then, in an instant, before I could start to enjoy my breather, two other runners grabbed an arm each and hauled me to my feet and to the side of the road away from the other following runners. One stayed with me to call over a medic, and I was not comforted by the look of horror on his face when he looked at my eye. *(continued on next page)*

The medic came along and asked the usual stupid questions such as whether I knew my name, what the date was and what I was doing, to assess whether I was concussed. When I had passed that particular test, he told me that I would need to go to the treatment room, as I would need stitches. Horror! My race was about to be over! And this after 12 months of serious training. So, running on the spot, in order not to seize up, I started to follow him to his treatment room. As this didn't seem too painful, my next logical step was to filter back onto the track and go along with the rest of the runners! So, without looking back at my helpful medic, I just pulled down my sweatband to cover my cut and stem the flow of blood, and carried on with my marathon.

My next task was to phone the wife to warn her that if she saw me along the Embankment as planned, my head may be a different colour to when she had seen me previously. The look of shock on her face when I eventually passed her told me that I had not over-exaggerated my warning. Despite the distance I had run, the adrenalin rush caused by the cheers of the crowd acknowledging my injury over the final miles helped me considerably, and I believe that the fall was turning into a help rather than a hindrance!

Then it was just round the corner along Birdcage Walk and past Buckingham Palace to the finish. I tried to do what they had told me and not look down at my watch but looked straight ahead with a smile on my face so that the official race finishing photo would be better, and consequently 'surged' across the line with such a feeling of relief that I had rarely felt before.

Then it was off to collect my medal and have the official photo before being handed to a St Johns medic to be looked at. After cleaning and inspection I was told that I would need to go across to St Thomas's Hospital for some stitches. After finding some food, I left with Lynda for A&E at St Thomas's, expecting the usual delays at hospitals. Amazingly as the weather conditions had been far more appropriate for marathon running than last year, the hospital was pretty quiet, and I was in and out after going through triage, being assessed, x-rayed, stitched with 8 stitches, *and* discharged in less than an hour!

And the result of this adventure was finishing 8,213th out of the 34,000 finishers in a time of 3 hours 48 minutes 20 seconds, and collecting over £10,000 in sponsorship for my charity.

All in all, a satisfactory day's work! Would I do it again? Well, we'll see! Ask me in a few weeks when the stiffness has gone!

Peter Marengi

PS Thanks to all who sponsored and supported me.

## **Groups for Young Children at Christ Church**

---

### **Parent and Toddler Group**

I have changed the name to Parent and Toddler Group because we have dads who come too, and I must not forget the grannies! The group meets on Monday morning in the centre 9:30 to 11:30am during term-time. It's a great group of young parents sharing experiences with each other, helping each other and I am sure making friends.

This term we have been bursting at the seams with between 35 to 40 adults and one session over 50 babies and toddlers. So it's great when we can use the whole centre, which seems to be quite often lately. This term I am asking mums to take their buggies into church during the session to be certain the corridor is left reasonably free.

The group continues to sponsor the Chinese child Zhang Ya Ge who is now 6 years old. We continue to support the youth program and we gave donations to the church, the holiday club and the Children's Society last term. This year we are funding the cleaning of the centre once a month. The children were given books at Christmas and chocolate buttons at Easter.

Paul came in at Christmas to tell the Nativity story which was enjoyed as much by the parents as the children. Usborne books and Fair Trade goods have been on sale and the photographer came in at the beginning of March. It's good to see some of the families coming to church, bringing their children to some of our activities. I must say a huge thank you to all the ladies who help each week either in kitchen or the room. It would not work without their help and support and I really appreciate their fellowship.

Please pray for all young families especially our toddler groups that they may know how much God loves them.

Sandra Morray

---

### **Jack's Plant Sale**

Jack and Barbara Sutcliffe held a plant sale on 17th May, and raised at least £425. The proceeds will be split between church funds, the Clifford Project and Jigsaw Kids Ministry.

## **Little Fishes - Friday Toddler Group**

Little Fishes meets on Fridays from 11:00am to 1:30pm. It is a joint venture with the Baptist Church. Our numbers of children have increased gradually over the months as new babies have been born to families already in attendance, as well as a few new families. We have around 12 families attending each week. Some of the children attend after morning school or before afternoon school. A number will be leaving us at the end of the summer term to go to full-time school or morning nursery. The first hour of Little Fishes is play-time for the children and chat time for the adults. Refreshments are provided. The children and parents also enjoy a variety of craft activities at this time. At around mid-day we have a Bible story followed by singing a variety of nursery and Christian children's songs. Then we have lunch together, the children sitting round little tables with parents close-by to supervise proceedings. After lunch there's more time for the children to play and adults to chat while we pack up and make our way home. There are often opportunities to chat with parents about the things that really matter to them, and sometimes we can share our faith. We support Zhang Ya Ge, a little girl in a community home in China who has cerebral palsy. We also raise funds for Jigsaw Kids Ministries in which our missionaries Tim & Kate Lee are involved in Manila. While Cecilia continues to be a valued member of the group, Caroline has taken over her leadership role. We are thankful for all the hard work Cecilia has done and her continued dedication to Little Fishes.

Caroline Vasby-Burnie

## **Climbers Sunday School**

Climbers meet on the first three Sundays of the month in the centre. The fourth Sunday is family service and we stay in church. We begin each week in church with the whole church family, going to our class after the children's song. We use Scripture Union materials with lovely leaflets highlighting what the children have learned, with a shorter version of the story they have heard, which they can share with their parents. We average about 8 children, who join in discussions, singing, drama and sometimes baking! Some children from the Monday Toddler group have started to come, that must be good news. Cath Scarratt has joined the teaching team and that for me is great. May I take this opportunity to thank all who help us each Sunday, it's really appreciated, and to Estella who organizes it. Please pray that the children will want to come to learn about God's love.

Sandra Morray

## **‘Youth Club for all ages’**

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June from 4.30pm

For young and old – something for everyone – active games and board games, table tennis, table football, snooker table,, children’s games

BBQ and refreshments

Tickets from Carole and Andy Stone or the Office

£1.50 per person or £5 per family

Money raised to go to Church Funds

### **News from Stephen and Tabita Bell** (*working in Croatia*)

Dear friends,

We would like to ask you to pray for God's continued blessing on the new-ish Dubrava church. At the moment there is a lot of enthusiasm; two people just became Christians, numbers are up with 71 coming on Sunday and 23 to the mid-week prayer meeting! Youth meetings are lots of fun and the singing group has even increased with four new singers! Here are some brief comments to encourage you as you “pray in the blessing“!

### **Sunday Worship**

There is lots of joy in our midst as we meet these days for worship. Members of the Dubrava church are bringing their friends and we are all expectant as we set off Sunday mornings. We are beginning to get used to new things! Tabita's parents came to visit last week and Tabita's father, Jan, preached evangelistically from Hebrews and all were really encouraged. Tabita's mother, Pavica, also gave a recitation... - people were moved as she spoke from memory!

Then this week Pero Crnkovic, a Croat living in Australia, made a visit and also challenged Christians and non-Christians alike to follow God's wonderful will.

### **Wednesday Prayer meetings**

These are a continual joy and as Pero shared and as we prayed for God's intervention and sustenance in Zagreb 23 of us were present.

Thank you for joining us, albeit from afar!

Stephen, Tabita, Sheona, Joshua & Benjamin

# ROADS FOR PRAYER

---

## 1st June

Navigation Loop  
Rangeley View  
Barnton Edge  
Rudyard Close

## 8th June

Bentley Close  
Rendel Grove  
Brindley Close  
Anderton View/Way



## 15th June

Cressey Close  
Joules Drive  
End of Granville Terrace  
Harecastle Bank

## 22nd June

Saltersford Rise  
Rolt Close  
Millenium Way  
Cameron Wharf

## 29th June

The Crescent  
Millers Gate  
Cauldon Way  
Harley Drive

---

## Thai Meal 27/04/08

Thai Lanna Restaurant, Stone

On Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April, a group of 52 from Christ Church spent an enjoyable lunchtime at the Thai Lanna restaurant in Stone. Staff rushed around ensuring everyone had drinks and were served their food. A large variety of different dishes were on offer – all very tasty and appetizing.

Everyone enjoyed this “time out” and the chatter and laughter was testament to this. As relative newcomers to Christ Church, we were made very welcome and would like to say a big thank you to the two families who ensured we were well looked after (you know who you are!).

Many thanks to Dave Rowlands who successfully organised the event – more like this please!

Richard and Gill Latos

---

## 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)

# FROM THE REGISTERS

---

## BAPTISMS

27th April	Holly Charlotte Molsom
27th April	Layla Busby Watkins
4th May	Storm Hollie Murray
4th May	Noah Ellis Gregory
4th May	Jayden Douglas Bond

## FUNERALS (Stafford Crematorium)

28th April	Rosemary Jane Holland
30th April	John Kenneth Kirkby

## SIDESPERSIONS ROTA

AM

1st June	J. Rowlands	D. Wilson
	V. Ledward,	K. Thompson
8th June	I. Gassor,	A. Greer
	B. Hutchinson,	M. Hutchinson
15th June	A. West	T. MacFarlane
	G. Holden,	J. Abrahams
22nd June	P. Hipkiss,	D. Pickles
	C. Wilding,	D. Davies
29th June	J. Rowlands	D. Wilson
	V. Ledward,	K. Thompson

## FLOWER ROTA

1st June	Mrs A. Illidge
8th June	Mrs I. Gassor
15th June	Mrs E. Mason
22nd June	Mrs S. Morray
29th June	Miss A. Butler



<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 Group</b>	Jeanette Rowlands.....816713
<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

**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      **Friday Little Fishes**      11.00 am

## THE MAGAZINE TEAM

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

**Please send material for the magazine to**

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

# Christ Church welcomes you!

---

Whether you are new to the Stone area or have been living here for some time you are welcome to come to this church. The church is made up of adults and children who want to know more about the living God, who has supremely revealed Himself in Jesus Christ and continues to speak to us through His Spirit-inspired word, the Holy Bible (which can be read online at [www.biblegateway.com](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).

---

## Subscriptions

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