

Christ Church and People

Parish Magazine of
Christ Church Stone

40p



June

2009

PARISH DIRECTORY

SUNDAY SERVICES

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

Young people's activities take place in the Centre on Sundays at 9.15 am
(see inside back page for details)

THE PARISH TEAM

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

CHRIST CHURCH CENTRE

Booking Secretary	Kate 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

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

Cover Story:-
King's Avenue

June 2009

Mon	1	7:00pm	Cornerstone for teenagers
Tue	2	9:30am 10:00am 12:30pm 3:45pm 6:30pm 7:30pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before midweek service: Service at 10:30am Seekers Club at Christ Church Middle School Lighthouse Youth Club Christ Church First School governors meeting Christ Church Youth Club
Wed	3		
Thu	4	1:20pm	Christ Church Middle School assembly
Fri	5	6:30pm	Breathe Youth Club
Sat	6	8:30am	Prayer meeting: Breakfast in Centre at 9:00am
Sun	7	9:15am 6:00pm	Communion. 2 Tim 4:1-22 "A year-round ministry" Evening Prayer at Oulton Mark 8:1-21 "Are you satisfied?"
Mon	8	7:00pm	Cornerstone for teenagers
Tue	9	9:30am 10:00am 12:30pm 3:45pm 7:30pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before midweek service: Service at 10:30am Seekers Club at Christ Church Middle School Lighthouse Youth Club Christ Church Youth Club
Wed	10		
Thu	11	1:20pm	Christ Church Middle School assembly
Fri	12	6:30pm	Breathe Youth Club
Sat	13		
Sun	14	9:15am 6:00pm	Morning Prayer. Romans 13 "Avoiding debt" Communion at Oulton Mark 8:22-9:1 "Do you see anything?"
Mon	15	7:00pm	Cornerstone for teenagers
Tue	16	9:30am 10:00am 12:30pm 3:45pm 7:30pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before midweek service: Service at 10:30am Seekers Club at Christ Church Middle School Lighthouse Youth Club Christ Church Youth Club

June 2009

Wed	17	7:30pm	Standing Committee
Thu	18	1:20pm	Christ Church Middle School assembly
Fri	19	6:30pm	Breathe Youth Club
Sat	20		
Sun	21	9:15am 6:00pm	Communion Matthew 6:19-34 "How to invest for eternity" Evening Prayer at Oulton Mark 9:2-13 "This is my son"
Mon	22	7:00pm	Cornerstone for teenagers
Tue	23	9:30am 10:00am 10:30am 12:30pm 3:45pm 7:30pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before midweek service Midweek service Seekers Club at Christ Church Middle School Lighthouse Youth Club Christ Church Youth Club
Wed	24		
Thu	25	1:20pm	Christ Church Middle School assembly
Fri	26	6:30pm	Breathe Youth Club
Sat	27		
Sun	28	9:15am 6:00pm	Family Service Luke 12:13-21 "How to live an empty life" Communion at Oulton Mark 9:14-32 "An unbelieving generation"
Mon	29	7:00pm	Cornerstone for teenagers
Tue	30	9:30am 10:00am 10:30am 12:30pm 3:45pm 7:30pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before midweek service Midweek service Seekers Club at Christ Church Middle School Lighthouse Youth Club Christ Church Youth Club

The Perfect Father

News of heroic dads is inspiring. Just recently a father had to take prompt action and help deliver his baby after watching some childbirth tutorials on the Internet. His wife's previous births were so fast that he knew that there was no time to lose. So, the Royal Naval Engineer did a quick search of video clips on how to deliver a baby and then it all happened. What a cool dad! I'd like to be able to deal with a crisis situation in the same way.

Christians celebrate the fact that God is the perfect Father: who brings each of his children into the world. All fathers should model themselves on Him. When we do our children will catch glimpses of God's tenderness, compassion, forgiveness, wisdom, patience, generosity and guidance. Of course there is never going to be an exact match as none of us is the perfect dad. In some cases the fathering is so poor that there is little but bitterness or deep hurt associated with the idea of 'father.' But even for those hurt by their own experience Christian faith brings to light God's perfect fatherhood. This is true for all who receive God's gift of adoption and so take their place in His family. To discover God's Fatherhood is to discover a truly wonderful reality.

This is why followers of Jesus pray 'our Father in heaven.' It's a privilege that results from a radical change of life. To know Jesus as Lord and Saviour means being born again to enjoy a new spiritual life. Jesus promises his Spirit to each of his people. This is put clearly by the apostle Paul: *'Any one who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him . . . All who are led by the Spirit of God are the sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of sonship. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is the Spirit himself bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God'* (Rom 8v9, 14-15).

As a church we have just celebrated the festival of Pentecost when we remember how the Holy Spirit was given as a gift to each and every follower of Jesus in Jerusalem, but also promised to believers in every generation. One of the Spirit's roles is to enable us to know God, the perfect Father, as our Father. This revelation is something to revel in and for fathers to model their lives on so as to teach our children about the Heavenly Father.



Paul Kingman.

The Great Inheritance

This will be the last of my little series on Bible verses that are not believed (in practice) by the Church in the west. I've been generalising, but generalisations are generally true... Of course, I could go on and on and on. Are you a follower of Jesus? Then we need to rebuke and encourage one another to keep in step with the Spirit and obey what the Bible says.

Or do you call yourself a Christian but you aren't *that* bothered about obeying the Lord Jesus? Then Jesus is seriously questioning whether you have any spiritual life in you at all.

Matthew 5:5 is amazing: "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth." Read it again: if the gracious good news of Jesus has produced a meekness in you, then answer this simple question: what will you inherit?

The Earth, creation, in all its magnificence and beauty: Christians can say "That belongs to my Father. It is a gift to my Older Brother (Jesus). He has promised to share it with me."

The Earth is not some waiting room that will be destroyed when followers of Jesus go to heaven. No, it is the theatre of salvation, good but damaged, awaiting the ultimate restoration project before the new owners (us!) take full possession. The power of the resurrection will be applied to the seas, the rocks, the mountains, the forests – in the words of Paul, "creation will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God." And it will be ours.

What astonishing good news! But so often forgotten as we scurry around trying to build up our bank accounts, furnish our homes with better possessions, build an inheritance for our children. If we really believed Jesus' promise then possessions and wealth are there to be used to bring others to Jesus, that they also might inherit the earth at the last day. If we really believed Jesus' promise then our children's financial inheritance would be as nothing compared to making sure they are walking with the Lord Jesus and waiting for the Great Inheritance.

Next time you go for a walk to enjoy creation take a moment to stop, appreciate, give thanks to your Saviour Jesus Christ and look forward to inheriting it all. What a blessing!

Tim Vasby-Burnie

One of the biggest challenges humanity faces (and has always faced) is how to make “being good” attractive. For some reason, perhaps because we are fallen creatures, we persist in preferring “being bad.” Somehow or other, being bad is cool; being good is, well, boring.

In the fourth century, Saint Augustine, a young man searching for meaning, joined a sect called the Manichees. They believed that the cosmos was ruled by two divine powers, one good and the other bad. For them, the evil power was furiously active all the time, whereas the good was basically concerned with not being bad.

After some years, Augustine left. Having led a wild life, he needed a vision of “being good” that was dynamic and attractive, not just “not being bad.” He found it in Jesus Christ and became one of the greatest Christian thinkers and teachers of all time.

But the problem remained. In the Middle Ages, thousands of altarpieces and wall paintings were produced, intended to encourage people to live good lives and not bad ones. The trouble was that, once again, hell somehow came over as The Place To Be - hot, certainly, but nonetheless where it was all at. Heaven, by contrast, often looked like a kind of eternal PCC meeting. And who would want that?

A few weeks ago, I visited a primary school on World Book Day. All the kids and teachers were dressed up as literary characters. Worryingly, more of them seem to have chosen baddies rather than goodies. I went up to one boy wearing a white shirt and bow-tie with what looked like a dab of paint on his upper lip. “Are you James Bond?” I asked politely. “James Bond?” he replied incredulously. “I’m Adolf Hitler.”

How do we, as Christians, make “being good” attractive? First, we should give thanks for those few writers and artists who have managed to do just that. CS Lewis, JK Rowling, Philip Pullman - all these have created characters who manage to be both genuinely good and genuinely attractive. And that’s not easy. They do it by using the imagination creatively.

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Some old bore once asked CS Lewis why he wrote children's stories about imaginary places. Why not write about Baltimore, or Dorking? "You don't understand," replied CS Lewis. "When you tell children stories about, say, enchanted woods, it doesn't make them despise the real woods. Instead, it makes the real woods a little bit enchanted."

We need ways to help each other rediscover the enchantment in the everyday. And the Bible tells us how: by living for Jesus, not for self.

Living for Jesus means living into God's vision of a new future for our world. In a time of world recession, this is critically important, because people need a new vision of how to live. They've discovered, as St Augustine did, that living for self, hoarding more goods, having "a good time", turns out to be fruitless. In the end, it doesn't satisfy.

Living for Jesus means making his teaching, his passions, his values, but above all his life, our own. It means dying to self, to the old Adam (as St Paul put it), and accepting Jesus' invitation to put God and other people first, to lay down our old habits and receive the free and gracious gift of new life in Christ.

And here's the miracle. When we do that - and it will always be a case of two steps forward and one step backward - we are changed. To our own genuine astonishment, we become attractive. People see something in us that challenges their values; and they want to know what it is. The evidence for the Resurrection is changed lives.

I write this at a time when we face a potential global pandemic of swine flu. Mass travel and communication has made viruses ever more infectious. But goodness is infectious too.

Try to live "the good life" in Christ, and you will not only have more fun, and be more truly happy. You will help, by God's grace, to heal our world.

Gordon Stafford

Sermons in June

Mornings in Stone and Oulton: *Finance and faith.*

We look at some of the Bible's teaching on our attitudes and actions with money. The Bible has lots to say on the topic. We kick off the series by thinking about how we are only to owe one debt and that is to love one another. We will think about how we are to trust God for our financial needs and how we are to avoid falling in love with wealth. We're entrusted with money and called to be good stewards.

Moddershall & Evenings: *Jesus and his followers.*

We complete a series on Jesus' teachings in Mark 6-9. We see a rising opposition to the truth and rejection of Jesus who came to fulfil the plan of salvation. Only those whose eyes Jesus opens respond with appropriate faith and are distinctive because of their identity, call and mission.

News from Tom and Claire

We have news from Tom Nash (youth work from Sept 05-Aug 07) and his wife Claire who have been at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford, in training for ordained ministry in the Church of England for the last two years. Tom will be taking up a curacy with special responsibility for 11-18's work at St Helen's Church, Bishopsgate (Diocese of London). We hope that they enjoy their time there and find that it is a productive time. Paul Kingman.

Would you like the church to be open during the day?

It has been proposed to open the church 9am-1pm Monday to Friday after the alterations to the church have been completed. Our new doorway will be highly visible and accessible for wheelchairs. For security purposes we need to have people about, possibly 2 or 3 persons.

Would you be prepared to give 1 or 2 hours a week/monthly to have the church open to the people of Stone and the many visitors who come to our lovely town. I will be really pleased to hear from you if you have some time to spare. Contact me on 815799. Dilys Davies

Lent Bible Challenge

I didn't manage to read through the whole Bible, but what I read was fantastic! It was thrilling to see the Lord's patience and faithful love towards his people displayed again and again. The gospel plan of salvation is unstoppable and I thank Jesus that I can be part of it.

Tim Vasby-Burnie

Albania - A modern miracle

A Mercedes picked me up at a very modern airport and sped past plush car dealerships to a restaurant where I had an excellent meal of lamb, salad and chips. It was hard to believe I was in Albania, one of Europe's poorest nations, which had opened up its borders to visitors only 19 years ago in 1990 after being a Communist dictatorship isolated from the rest of the world for nearly 50 years. Since then this small country north west of Greece on the Adriatic has undergone an amazing political U-turn from an extremely left wing Socialist state to a democracy about to join the European Union and a member of Nato sending soldiers to Iraq and Afghanistan.

I had grown up always fascinated by the two countries I was forbidden to visit - China and Albania. Ironically, the only two holidays I had ever had on my own during our 32-year married life was when I was invited to be in the first ever delegation of regional press editors to China in 1986 and last month to join a team from ECM (European Christian Mission) visiting Albania.

But it's not just a political revolution but a spiritual one that has occurred in the Eastern Mediterranean since dictator Enver Hoxha had declared his country the world's first atheistic state.

From 1990, Christians have poured into the country to bring the Gospel to Albania and now there are more than 170 churches in the country, every town has at least one evangelical church and Albania has already sent 50 missionaries overseas.

I, along with a retired teacher from Melton Mowbray, a retired businessman and his wife from Falkirk, Scotland, a teaching lecturer from Riga, Latvia, and an ECM staff worker in Northampton, were invited to see the church in Lushnje, about an hour and a half's drive from the capital, Tirana.

It was like going back in time to the Book of Acts to see how a church grew from nothing, survived a civil war and is now run by Albanian Christians. However, it is not just a church, it's a centre for social action and outreach. There are about 50-60 worshippers every Sunday using all the latest in computer technology. On top of that they run an English language school for 350, they are building two homes for poor people, planting churches in three nearby villages, running sewing classes so local women can set up their own businesses and teaching computer classes to youngsters. Now they want to buy the three-storey building opposite the church and school so they can expand with a nursery and kindergarten. The day before we flew home 21 wheelchairs arrived from Holland so the disabled can come to church as there are no Social Services in Albania.

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All of this is run with military precision by a former army captain and now pastor, Berti Dosti. The 52-year-old is in charge of the church and the school, oversees every church activity, preaches on the radio weekly and after church every Sunday morning at Lushnje takes an afternoon service at Durres, more than an hour's drive away.

For 12 years Berti was an army signals expert. His job was to put on the earphones and listen for radio messages telling him that Britain and America were about to invade. They never came but while searching the airwaves he stumbled across a 15-minute a week Christian broadcast beamed in by Trans World Radio from Monte Carlo. No one suspected that Albanian territory was left defenceless for a quarter of an hour a week as the captain with his earphones on tuned in and was eventually converted by the message. If he had been caught, he would have been thrown out of the army in disgrace and thrown into jail at the very least.

Some of the British team were there to help train the teachers while the rest of us did nine lessons of English conversation. I also took the men's fellowship meeting and set up some writing opportunities.

As I have always found whenever I go to help the church overseas, I always learn far more than I give.

It was exciting to see a new church in its early days, young teenagers who gave their testimony in superb English at only a few minutes' notice, the effect that a Christian radio station can have on a closed country and the tireless work put in by missionaries, including Dave Bell's brother Stephen, in nurturing the Albanian church in the 1990s.

As I sat in on a vibrant youth service, I thought back to the early 1980s when Jan, I, Pete, and Liz Mason took a youth group from Christ Church on our regular weekend away to Cloverley Hall in Shropshire. One year there was a missionary group at the centre that weekend praying for Albania to open up to the Gospel. We joined them and I thought of the miniscule but nevertheless important part we had played in Albania's future.

Next time I go on a Christian conference I could bump into a group praying for the isolated and closed Communist dictatorship of North Korea. Now there's a challenge for 2010.

John Butterworth

PCC News (March)

The PCC met on Monday 16 March 2009 and the following matters were reported on, discussed and/or decided.

- We are going to pursue the CAP money matters approach (Christians Against Poverty) as our way of supporting people who are experiencing money difficulties. Our service will be a kind of signposting where we would put people who want help in touch with the CAP experts and they would take on the specialist advice.
 - Our fourth visit into Bromfield court took place on 3 April. It had an Easter theme and palm crosses were distributed.
 - Draft final accounts were studied, in preparation for the APCM. The accounts were approved subject to the outcome of their audit.
 - Detailed studies have taken place into moving forward the church/centre access project. The aim is to get the work done during the quieter summer months. On site discussions have taken place with the architect and detailed engineering drawings have been produced. The latest version of the plans are to be displayed at the APCM.
 - It was suggested that we should open the church to visitors during the summer months. This was considered over two years ago but never got started. It is to be considered again, investigating the reasons why it didn't happen last time and reviewing the details of our insurance policy.
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Lent Bible Challenge

I didn't honestly believe I'd manage to get through all 66 books of the Bible in the 6 weeks of Lent. Despite being sceptical, I started off determined to finish, and continued with a growing strength and desire for God's word. The results of this have been infinitely valuable, as each day God has taught me so much more about His character, the history of mankind, and the incredible sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Not only that, but my knowledge of the events of the Bible has become completely essential to my further understanding of this great news. Furthermore, I have found it a great encouragement to my faith, specifically encouraging me to put my faith into action. Despite having to give up a few other activities which normally clutter my day, I found that with the help of God, it was very easy to fit my lifestyle around this challenge.

Tom Woodhead

The PCC met on Monday 11 May 2009 and the following matters were reported on, discussed and/or decided.

- An additional meeting had been held on 22 April prior to the APCM to discuss the letting of the tender to carry out the building works to create the new entrance to the church and centre. Preparation work for the building has now started. A good proportion of the cost for this will be paid for by a very generous legacy that was left to us for the benefit of the church centre. We will be applying for grants to match fund the cost of the works. In addition we will be considering fund raising activities.
- As this was the first meeting of the new PCC a number of people were elected into the officer roles. Details of PCC membership are set out on the inside of the back cover of the magazine.
- Mr and Mrs J Butterworth are leading on our operation of the CAP Money Matters scheme. We will put people seeking help in touch with specialist advice. A series of 3 evening sessions will be held in June and July. If you feel that you would like to help in this outreach work, please watch out for further details and come along to the sessions.
- The next visit to Bromfield court will take place on Friday 5 June. If you would like to be involved in this mission, please contact Dss Ann Butler.
- At the APCM the practice of not circulating the Collection Plate at Sunday services was raised. After much discussion it was agreed to continue this practice. It was also decided that the gift aid envelopes would be put out in each pew and those not used would be collected back in again after the service. In addition, the notice about giving at the end of the service sheet will be reviewed.
- We will be carrying out a pilot of opening the church to visitors during August and September when the building works on the new porch entrance are complete. If you would like to be involved and can spare some time to be in the church to welcome visitors during the week, please contact Mrs Dilys Davies who is coordinating a rota.

A Seed has been sown (Jigsaw Ministries)

‘Jesus said, “The kingdom of heaven is like this; a man sowed a seed in a field, the seed grew into a big tree and the birds lived in its branches.”’ (Mark 4:30-32)

‘This is a perfect picture to describe Jigsaw. God sent myself and Tim as the sowers. We took with us a seed which in our case was a belief that children are important and need places they can go to which share God’s love and salvation. Places where there is security, self-esteem, community, creativity, boundaries and grace. Places where they are the focus. Places where love can grow. We planted that seed in the lives of the staff and communities that Jigsaw worked in. The roots of the seed grew by working alongside people, modelling good children’s work, implementing boundaries of accountability, justice, management and leadership systems.

Right now, Jigsaw is a shoot, but the vision is that it will grow into a big strong tree in the community. A tree that provides places of refuge and safety for the urban poor and street children that live nearby. Although the tree will have characteristics of the original seed (ie what myself and Tim brought) it must grow to be a Filipino tree that is developed within the culture and context of urban poor life. If not, how can the birds of that place, or in this analogy, the kids, live in a tree that is not familiar or alien to them?

The shoot of Jigsaw at the moment is the family centres, that have kids clubs, literacy programmes, school sponsorship etc. These places are so vital for bringing change which is desperately needed, as the poverty and abuse are horrendous. Where there is a Jigsaw centre change is happening and this shoot now needs to be tended and given space for God to grow it.

So the next stage for us is the tending, supporting, watering and protecting of the shoot. It is the responsibility of the sower ie us, to do this. If not, it will be eaten or destroyed or lost in a storm. So this next stage of growth in Jigsaw is just as vital as the six years we spent sowing the seed, putting down roots and growing the shoot. CMS has also recognised the need of giving the Jigsaw shoot space to grow and are keen to help us explore how this can be achieved.

So myself, Tim and our three kids will move back to the UK in June and begin the next stage of our mission there. Jigsaw will remain our number one priority and we will support and protect it through regular internet contact, three visits a year, curriculum support, overseeing the finance and accounts

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Jigsaw Ministries *(continued)*

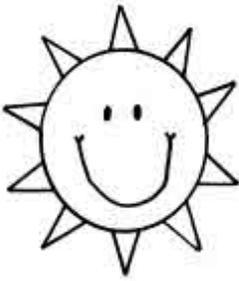
and exploring training opportunities in conjunction with working for Jigsaw. Tim hopes to do a masters course in international child development. We are both committed to remaining in the field that God has called us, which is working to transform the lives of abused and 'at risk' children through God's love. For us to be effective in this field we need to gain further knowledge and understanding. The plan for me (Kate) is that I will help support Jigsaw UK, look after our kids and part-time teach.

So even though we soon won't be based in the Philippines, our work and Jigsaw's development is far from complete. In fact it feels like it is just beginning. The decision for the timing of this next stage is entirely God's. We never envisaged stepping out of Jigsaw, it's our community, full of dear friends who we have shared joys and hardships with. God though has made it very plain that we need to move away. Six months ago we had a deep down realisation that no matter how good intentioned we are, we cannot develop Jigsaw into a tree that would be locally accepted or relevant. On top of this we were evicted from our house. Tim's father is very sick and our kids need a better education. It's a hard heart-breaking move but we know it's the right one. The staff at Jigsaw are supportive of this move, and we feel that they are ready. The systems in place and organisational structures are strong and the managers and staff are accountable not only to us but also to an external accountant and a board of directors. We will shortly be sending out a document explaining how Jigsaw will operate while we are in the UK and how we will continue to oversee it.

Over the years your prayers and gifts have made sowing the seed possible. We would love that support to continue so that together with GOD we can help Jigsaw to become a big strong tree for the kids that desperately need a place of refuge.'

Lent Bible Challenge

Despite starting a few weeks before Lent I didn't finish the Bible, but I did find many small passages I had never noticed before. More importantly, the consistency of God's message in the Old Testament was striking, as was the consistent fulfilment of prophecy. Dave Bell



Summer Socials

Summer time is here again! Over the summer months it would be great to have a number of social events to spend time together and have fun. These events could also be a great way of introducing people you know to the church family. Whether it is a day trip to the beach, a Sunday afternoon stroll or an evening barbecue, if you have an idea for an event that you wish to host or organise please let Caroline Vasby-Burnie know and she will pool the ideas onto a programme. Simply fill out a form (available from church office) or e-mail the information to tim@vasbyburnie.net. Remember to tell us about cost, who this is suitable for, whether numbers are limited, whether people need to provide their own transport, if it is weather dependent, etc.

Return by **7th June** to get details in the July magazine.

Return by **28th June** to get details in the August magazine.

All events will be published in early July, and made available to people at Christ Church, Oulton and Moddershall. If you want to take part in any event, please contact the organiser directly.

Lent Bible Challenge

I was amazed I managed to read the whole of the Bible during Lent. I had done it once before but on that occasion started the week before and finished two weeks after Lent. This time I was determined to do it within Lent. I realised it would be a major undertaking, and it was. To begin with I had to use my time differently. I reduced the time spent on many time-consuming activities such as housework, watching TV etc. I found any spare moments at all were spent reading the Bible and I frequently became so engrossed that many meals were late!

Reading the Bible so intensively gives you a good over-view of the Big Picture; God's loving plan unfolding through all the events described in each book. It makes you much more aware of the presence of Jesus throughout the Bible and helps you understand our position as God's plan continues to unfold.

I found the whole experience fascinating and inspiring. After I finished, just before Easter I immediately started again, as any other book I tried to read was so obviously shallow in comparison. I am not reading as quickly, this time, and my house is a little cleaner. However I am finding new aspects, all the time, as God speaks to me in different ways. I'm certain I will continue to discover new things no matter how many times I read the Bible from cover to cover.

Estella Woodhead

An update on the building project

You have probably seen the builders have started work on our new link between the Church and the Centre. All the legal and statutory hoops have been jumped through and the foundations have been quite literally laid. Most of the funding is from a very generous legacy but we will still need some fund raising to save using our other precious reserves.

This project has primarily been designed to help us comply with fire regulations and give good access to the building, but also to make a difference in the way we see and use our buildings. The new building will make a common entrance to both the centre and the church.

The entrance will be a glass fronted lobby which will have wood framed, glazed doors into the church using an opening created in the front window space. There will be direct access into the Centre corridor which will open into the new lobby, giving a much lighter and airier feel.

The existing Centre entrance doors, steps and ramp will be removed, providing space for a new room adjacent to the office and making the new Lobby entrance the common way in and out to all activities in both the Church and the Centre.

The new ramp access will be a gentler gradient and will be easier for wheel chair users. The plan is to have the work completed by mid August - all dependent on the weather of course.

The PCC have asked me to act as the link between the Church and the Architect and Builder, and as part of this responsibility I will keep you up to date with progress through the service sheet notices and the magazine. If you have any questions about the project please catch me after a service.

Pete Mason

Help with Money matters

Do you have problems making ends meet each month? Do you sometimes dread opening your bank statements and bills? It's a common worry, so if you want to learn to be better at budgeting come along to the Christ Church Centre. For three Wednesdays at 8pm for around an hour on June 24, July 1 and July 8 we will be running a course to help you manage your money better. It is part of a national organisation CAP, Christians Against Poverty. To find out more and to book your place on the course please ring John and Jan Butterworth on Stone 817465.

17 What are Falcon Camps and who are they for?

Over 500 children and young people find fun and new activities on 20 different Falcon Camps each year. As a charitable organisation our aim is to provide subsidised, quality holidays for 8-18 year olds who face disadvantage and wouldn't otherwise get a holiday.

Who leads the camps?

Teams of carefully selected Christian volunteers who are committed to working with young people facing disadvantage. Each year they receive training specifically targeted to relevant areas required by the work. Many of them work with young people throughout the year, through their churches and elsewhere.

How do you get the young people and children involved?

They are recruited through churches and organisations such as Social Services.

What about cost?

The price for each Falcon Camp is £120, which includes accommodation, food and activities. Most of the camps are partly-funded by gifts. Anyone can become a Friend of Falcon by giving £50 each year and we'll keep you updated with news/developments and prayer items. Many churches hold fundraising events and some give one-off gifts. The subsidy fund helps young people to go on Falcon Camps, who would otherwise be unable to afford it.

What now?

Get involved and be a part of God's work through Falcon Camps.

- pray for the Falcon Camps Team, the camps and those who are involved
- give financial support to CPAS - without it the work can't continue.
- receive the Falcon Camp Bulletin - packed with exciting stories
- help us to recruit children and young people and volunteer leaders
- volunteer on a Falcon Camp yourself!

Food for Thought! A Cautionary Tale

Once upon a time, the evolutionary scientists were feeling very pleased with themselves. The great human genome project had been completed thanks to a new fast method of sequencing genes. Yet another theory on how life had arrived on Earth made them confident that before long they would be able to produce life in their laboratories.

"God," they said, shaking their corporate fists towards heaven, "you're finished, redundant, a primitive myth." "Really," replied the Almighty. "I didn't know. But who will run things if I'm not here?" "Who?" asked the experts. "Why, Man will run the earth -and the Universe. Our scientific know-how will enable us to build a future free from dogma. One day we expect to create eternal life."

"You can create life?" asked God. "Why, yes!" said the biologists. "We can already clone creatures; and test-tube babies are yesterday's technology."

"Could you make a man?" asked the Lord. "Why certainly - given a little more time and plenty of funding, even making a man in the laboratory will be possible. "Yes, but could you make a man as I made him, from the dust of the earth. If so go for it then" said God. Supremely confident, the scientists began to gather sacks of dust. "What do you think you are doing?" asked God "We're collecting dust to take back to the laboratories, in order to research how to make a living man from its elements, like you did," they replied.

" Oh, no, no, no, no, no. "said the Lord God. "You get your own dust!"
From Ann Butler

Carole would like to extend an
open invitation to her
40th Birthday Celebrations
Saturday 20th June
11am-11pm
Open House at
11 Redwood Avenue, Stone
Speak to Carole or Andy Stone
for further details

7th June

Mount Road
Mount Street
Old Road
Stonefield Court

14th June

Stonefield Square
Victor Street
Victoria Street
Whitebridge Lane



21st June

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

28th June

Longton Road
Margaret Street
Newcastle Street
Newcastle Road

Staffordshire Historic Churches Trust

Sponsored Cycle Ride and Walk Saturday 12th September 2009

Saturday 12th September seems a long way off - but make a note of the date now!

How about cycling or walking round our area visiting churches and collect sponsorship for the number of churches you visit? There are churches involved all over the county.

Last year Dorothy Wilson and Margaret Hutchinson walked visiting ten churches in Stafford. We met old friends and enjoyed numerous snacks and drinks from churches on the way. Sandra and Chris Morray cycled miles!

So this year will you walk or cycle or stay at Christ Church to welcome visitors to our church, and hopefully by then show off our new entrance. The sponsor money is equally divided between the Historic Churches Trust and our own church so this could be your contribution to the funding of the alteration. Nearer the time Sponsor forms will be available from Dorothy . Go now and put the date on your calendar!

FROM THE REGISTERS

FUNERALS

(Stafford Crematorium)

13th May

Lesley James Moss

Age 73

BAPTISM

26th April

Jorja Alexis Nuttall

SIDESPERSIONS ROTA

AM

7th June

K. Thompson T. MacFarlane

A. West V. Ledward

14th June

J. Abrahams C. Wilding

J. Rowlands D. Wilson

21st June

A. Greer P. Hipkiss

G. Holden D. Davies

28th June

I. Gassor M. Hutchinson

A. West B. Hutchinson

FLOWER ROTA

7th June

Mrs I. Gassor

14th June

Mrs L. Mason

21st June

Mrs S. Morray

28th June

Miss A. Butler



Christ Church on the Internet

Parish website www.churches.lichfield.anglican.org/stone/stonecc

Parish office email christchurch.centre1@btinternet.com

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

GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

Climbers 3-7 years	Sandra Morray.....286093
Explorers 7-11 years	Estella Woodhead.....761659
Pathfinders 11-14 years	Enid Bell.....815775
Banner Group	Jeanette Rowlands.....816713
Church Missionary Boxes	Cecilia Wilding.....817987
Flower Guild	Marylyn Hillman.....815936
Men's Fellowship	Mike Thompson.....813712
Missions Secretary	Cecilia Wilding.....817987
Prayer Circle	Jeanette Rowlands.....816713
Pastoral Care Group	Ann Butler.....818160
Parents & Toddlers (Mon 9.30 – 11.15am)	Sandra Morray.....286093
3rd Stone Brownies (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

THE MAGAZINE TEAM

Mission News& Prayer Diary Cecilia Wilding 817987

Please send material for the magazine to

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

Christ Church welcomes you!

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

We are a Christian church, because at the heart of what we believe is the fact that to know God personally we must put our trust in Jesus' death for our forgiveness so that we can be reconciled to God. We are part of the Anglican church, the basis of its Trinitarian belief is summarised in the Book of Common Prayer with its 39 articles, though we unite in Christ irrespective of denomination. We are an Evangelical church, as we see that the Bible is God's word for us and so is to inspire all that we do. This church was established with the help of the renowned Charles Simeon.

Our church meetings help us to grow in our understanding of what the Bible tells us about God, and this is something that we encourage others to investigate especially through our *Christianity Explored* course (see details on the national website www.christianityexplored.com). If you would like details of when the next local course is starting then please contact the church office.

We have children's and youth activities running during the Sunday meetings and also during the week, such as our Tuesday evening youth club. Adults may be further involved through small groups which meet for Bible study and prayer, a midweek communion service and a monthly prayer meeting.

Our community involvement includes links with the local schools: Christ Church First, Oulton First, Christ Church Middle and Alleyne's High.

We also have links with the Church in India, The Philippines, Croatia, Botswana and Pakistan.

This magazine and the church website concern Christ Church in Stone, but we are linked with the churches in Oulton and Moddershall (see separate magazine and website).

Subscriptions

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