

Christ Church and People

40p



March

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 17 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
Electoral Roll Officer	Irene Gassor	814871
Parish Office	Christ Church Centre, Christ Church Way, Stone, Staffs ST15 8ZB Email christchurch.centre1@btinternet.com	811990
Deaconess (Retired)	Ann Butler	818160
Readers	David Bell John Butterworth Margaret Massey David Rowlands Michael Thompson Cecilia Wilding	815775 817465 813403 816713 813712 817987
Music Co-ordinators	Peter Mason Jeff Challinor	815854 819665
Wardens	Phil Tunstall David Rowlands	817028 816713
Deputy Wardens	Shirley Hallam, Arthur Foulkes	
Prayer Request List	Barbara Thornicroft	818700

CHRIST CHURCH CENTRE

Booking Secretary	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

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

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

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Christ Church



and People

Please get your
contributions for
the April
magazine to us
by 15th
March

Cover Story: Jerry Cooper drew lots of wonderful pictures for this magazine, all of them buildings in our parish. This month the picture is of Langtrys corner.

March 2008

Sat	1	9:00am	Christianity Explored Conference
Sun	2	9:15am 6:00pm	Mothering Sunday Family service Luke 2:46-56 "The reason to rejoice" Communion at Christ Church 1 Thessalonians 2:1-9 "A motherly ministry"
Mon	3	7:00pm	Cornerstone for teenagers
Tue	4	9:30am 10:00am 12:30pm 7:30pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before service, then Midweek service at 10:30 Seekers Club at Christ Church Middle School Youth Club in the Centre
Wed	5	9:00am 7:45pm	Prayers for schools and young people Lent Course (4)
Thu	6	1:20pm	Christ Church Middle School assembly
Fri	7	2:00pm	Women's World Day of Prayer at Christ Church
Sat	8	7:00pm	Arthur and Phil's Quiz evening
Sun	9	9:15am 6:00pm	Communion. Matt 11:24-30 "The greatest invitation" Evening Prayer at Christ Church Joshua 11-21 "Lists and Land"
Mon	10	7:00pm 7:30pm	Cornerstone for teenagers PCC meeting
Tue	11	9:30am 10:30am 12:30pm 7:30pm	Christ Church First School assembly Midweek service Seekers Club at Christ Church Middle School Youth Club in the Centre
Wed	12	9:00am 7:45pm	Prayers for schools and young people Lent Course (5)
Thu	13	1:20pm 7:30pm	Christ Church Middle School assembly Missionary Fellowship at Oulton:- Rebecca Williams
Fri	14		
Sat	15		
Sun	16	9:15am 6:00pm	Palm Sunday Morning Prayer John 12:12-16 "The fulfilment of hope" Communion at Christ Church Joshua 22 "Homeward bound"

March 2008

Mon	17	7:00pm	Cornerstone for teenagers
Tue	18	10:30am 12:30pm 1:30pm 7:30pm	Midweek service Seekers Club at Christ Church Middle School Christ Church First School Easter service Youth Club in the Centre
Wed	19	9:00am 9:30am 7:45pm	Prayers for schools and young people Men's meeting Lent Course (6)
Thu	20	11:00am 7:45pm	Christ Church Middle School Easter service Maundy Thursday communion service at Oulton
Fri	21	10:00am 10:00am 10:40am 7:30pm	CTiS Meet at St Michael's Church Craft for children in the Centre Good Friday Service at Christ Church Meditation at Christ Church
Sat	22		CTiS singing in the Market Square
Sun	23	9:15am 6:00pm	Easter Communion. Romans 1:1-5 "The risen Christ" Easter Praise at Christ Church. Joshua 23 "Every promise kept"
Mon	24		
Tue	25	10:30am 1:30pm	Midweek service Pyramid Rock holiday club
Wed	26	9:00am 1:30pm	Prayers for schools and young people Pyramid Rock holiday club
Thu	27	1:30pm	Pyramid Rock holiday club
Fri	28	1:30pm	Pyramid Rock holiday club
Sat	29		
Sun	30	9:15am 10:30am 6:00pm	Pyramid Rock holiday club service Genesis 45-47 "The King" Fairtrade stall in the Centre Communion at Christ Church. Joshua 24 "Marching orders"
Mon	31		

EASTER truth

Here is a selection of great truths that we celebrate at Easter:

E is for eternal purpose: the plan of salvation was not ‘plan B’ due to problems with the first plan. The death and resurrection of Christ was the plan right from before the beginning of the world.

A is for access: the death of Christ is the only just way of dealing with our sin which otherwise separates us from God forever. The atoning death of Christ makes it possible for us to have access to God and receive His blessings.

S is for Son of God: only the perfect Son of God could be the sacrificial Lamb who offered himself up voluntarily for our sin. This shows the immense self-sacrificial love of God to secure our salvation: ‘He did not spare his only Son but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things’ (Romans 8v32).

T is for triumph over evil: through his death on the cross Jesus ‘disarmed the powers and authorities he made a public spectacle of them’ (Colossians 2v15). This means that there is nothing to fear if we take protection under the care of Jesus.

E is for every promise kept: Jesus promised he would suffer and die on a cross, but also promised he would rise to new life three days later. This he did. That means we can trust in every one of Jesus’ promises.

R is for resurrection hope: all who trust in the death of Christ as God’s way of acceptance by the forgiveness of their sins will one day be resurrected to eternal life. There are no intermediary stages to go through and no finishing school to attend. This is shown by Jesus’ words to the criminal crucified next to him: ‘today you will be with me in paradise’ (Luke 23v43). For the believer death is like sleep – it is over quickly and then a new day starts.

Over the Easter week we have some special services. On Maundy Thursday we celebrate the institution of the Last Supper on the night before Jesus died. On Good Friday we remember the day Jesus died to put us right with God and have a special service for all ages. On Easter Sunday we celebrate Jesus’ resurrection as the victor over sin, death and evil, so we proclaim: Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Paul Kingman.



Explore Your Family History

Over the last few years there has been an explosion of interest in family history. Programmes such as the BBC's "Who do you think you are?" have tapped into a fascination with our roots, and there are plenty of websites that will help you track through public records to uncover your ancestors.

Some have suggested that this increased interest is because we live in a society that is increasingly root-less. We do not know who we are. Politicians want to promote 'Britishness' but cannot decide what it means. For most people religion no longer provides an identity. With so many makeovers, changes of career and so on – with everything apparently up for grabs – family history is giving people an anchor.

The past is important because we are part of a story much bigger than our own lives. The US Marines know this, and value it; for General Tony Zinni (see the January magazine for details) this forms the third in his list of distinctives that, in his opinion, make the Marines great:

“We feel stronger about our traditions than any other service. We salute the past. This is not merely ritual or pageantry. It is part of the essence of the Marine Corps. One of the essential subjects every Marine has to know is his Corps' history; he has to take that in and make it an essential part of himself.”

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus...” wrote the author of Hebrews (12:1). The Bible encourages us to know our history. Church history doesn't always sound exciting, but delving into the lives of our Christian forebears can be a great stimulus for the Christian life. The theology that kept them going, the risks they took for the sake of Christ, their perseverance and joy amidst hardships: all these and more, when made an essential part of ourselves, will help us fix our eyes on Jesus.

A good starting place might be a series of sermon-biographies written by pastor/author John Piper. These can be read or listened to at <http://www.desiringgod.org/ResourceLibrary/Biographies/> From Athanasius and Augustine through William Tyndale and John Bunyan to Martin Lloyd-Jones – be inspired by these heroes of faith. Explore your Christian family history and find roots that will help you grow.

Tim Vasby-Burnie

Website of the Month – You Tell Me!

This month I'm not recommending a website. Instead, I want you to recommend some to me! This is because a new Christ Church website is slowly taking shape and we want your ideas about what it should include.

If you have come across good church websites, do let me know. More than that – what do you want from a Christ Church website? Online sermons? Notices? Practical resources? What would be helpful for someone new to this area, or curious about Christianity?

The new website is a long way off going public (which is why there is no address for it) but your ideas will help shape its look and content. In due time there will be opportunity to see it and give feedback so that it can be improved.

Please send ideas and information to website@christchurchstone.org and do talk to me if you want to help.

Tim Vasby-Burnie

Thanks from John Butterworth MBE

I would like to thank all those people who congratulated me and sent me cards and emails after I was awarded the MBE for services to journalism and charity in this year's New Year's honours list. I was particularly touched by friends and colleagues who I hadn't seen for more than 30 years who contacted me. I don't know a date yet when I am going to Buckingham Palace but my Mum Sylvia has already started deciding what hat and outfit to wear.

John Butterworth

Mission News

The **Baron** and **Humphreys** families are back into a second busy term at Hebron School in South India – there are just two terms per academic year. This is the term when Steffan Humphreys will be taking his GCSE exams, and Simon Baron takes his A Levels. Both families would value your prayers. The court case against the School being brought by a previous member of staff has been deferred.

The **Barons** are expecting to be back in the UK for a short home leave this summer and may visit us if they can fit us in.

We have recently heard from the **Lee family** working with street children and families in the Philippines. They too are coming home for a couple of months in the summer and we hope to have a visit from them. Their financial support is £14,000 p.a. short. Christ Church does support them as a church together with some individuals. If you feel you could, and should, give towards their support, please have a word with Cecilia.

Stephen Bell is in the UK at present visiting supporting churches – not us this time as he was with us in November. Pray for Tabita and the children back in Zagreb while Stephen is away.

Rebecca is in the UK on Home Assignment from Pakistan until mid-April and is speaking at the Oulton Missionary Fellowship in the Church Rooms on **Thursday, 13th March 2008 at 7.30pm**. This is an open meeting and all are invited. Do think about coming to hear Rebecca.

Further Mission News is included in the prayer insert in the centre of this magazine.

VETERANS

V = Very determined to finish the work you gave me to do.

E = Excited about Jesus.

T = Tired in the work of the Lord but NOT tired of it – that is the difference.

E = Enthusiastic about the people they serve. Some thing to do with the power of the Holy Spirit.

R = Rich beyond measure for the joy of the Lord is our strength.

A = Appreciating the simple things in life – a child's laughter, birdsong, the beauty of a sunset and sunrise.

N = Never stop nurturing our relationship with God.

Has the Great Experiment failed?

It is said that the Russians tried to decimalize the days of the week after the Revolution, but it didn't work.

The Israelis tried to abolish the private household with the kibbutz system, but they didn't succeed.

The Dutch have discovered that the drugs revolution has gone too far, and they have had to introduce new controls.

But the great British experiment to downgrade marriage and the family gives no sign of running out of steam. The recent British Social Attitudes Survey appears to show that marriage and cohabitation are seen as equally valid by 66% of the population. But are they right? Is deciding to get married or not just another personal choice, like whether to drive a Ford or a Vauxhall?

Teachers, social workers, probation officers and leaders of voluntary youth organisations always tell me that children are deeply affected by trouble at home, and that what affects them worse than anything is the splitting up of their family and Dad leaving.

Of course we all know heroic widows and single mothers who do brilliantly at bringing up their children – and we also know how tough it is on them. We all know too that some marriages can be bad marriages: there are criminal families who pass on criminal traits to the next generation; there are violent and abusive marriages that destroy children; and all of us who are married know that our marriages are far from perfect.

But that is just the point. The heart of marriage is not the legalities or the celebration day (though both underline the importance of the marriage). The heart is the commitment to stay together, to be faithful, and to provide the kind of atmosphere that will give growing children stability. All the surveys show that children whose parents are married tend to do better, be healthier, and involve themselves less in drugs or crime.

Listening to the stories of the boys locked up in our Young Offender Institutions about their lack of family support makes me want to weep — and then get very angry that we don't warn people more about the cruelty of having children without a loving father and mother permanently committed to bring them up together. *(continued on next page)*

Of course giving people a tax break to get married is not the entire solution. It might even encourage couples to get together for the wrong reasons. To change a generation that has been told that following the fancy of the moment is a sacred duty takes a lot of patient unravelling. But the tax system is one way of showing that society knows that it depends on good marriages — which it does. Any survey of the costs to the nation of delinquency and family breakdown would be truly shocking. To my mind the great experiment has clearly failed.

But Christians are reluctant to bang the drum too easily. While Jesus declared himself unequivocally in favour of the marriage of a man and a woman for life as the foundation of society he also took his disciples out of their families and taught that there is a higher community than marriage and the family. In our culture families can be means of institutionalizing selfishness. In heaven there will be no marriage as we know it and even on this earth Christians are to build loving communities which include the unmarried and exclude no one. However as long as we remain on this earth the family remains the basic building block of society and the commitment of marriage remains the key to that building block.

The benefit of marriage is that the institution helps us; it protects from our erratic feelings what we really, deep down, want and need. The fact that we have promised solemnly before God and all our families and friends to stay together supports us and protects us from breaking our commitment after a row or in a weak moment.

It commits us to go on changing together as we travel through life rather than moving gradually apart. It commits us to staying friends and lovers rather than being fair-weather friends. It may be unfashionable to say so, but everywhere there is the need for us to re-think our public policy about bringing up our children, and the evidence shows that the experiment to downplay marriage has failed us dreadfully.

Our children deserve the chance to be brought up by a man and a woman who promise to love each other always.

Jonathan Gledhill
Bishop of Lichfield

Christ Church has been a Fairtrade church since 2005. As such we undertake to use Fairtrade coffee, tea and sugar, to encourage the purchase of all Fairtrade products and to promote Fairtrade Fortnight. This year Fairtrade Fortnight runs from 25th February till March 8th and the theme is ‘Change Today – Choose Fairtrade’.

The aim of Fairtrade is to transform the lives of poor producers in the developing world by enabling them to use their skills and resources to trade their way out of poverty.

You’re probably aware that you can buy a wide range of Fairtrade food products every 4th Sunday, usually after the Family Service. Fairtrade craft goods are also sold in October and November (for Christmas gifts) and in February (for Mothering Sunday).

Our goods are supplied by Traidcraft – UK’s leading Fairtrade organisation which was established in 1979. They are a Christian organisation, committed to working with people of all faiths and none in the fight against poverty. They help the poor to trade more effectively by breaking down the barriers which prevent them accessing markets. They work with partners (usually small farmer co-operatives) to develop business skills and capability and to create the right environment for sustainable trade.

An important part of Traidcraft’s role is to work at national and international level, advocating changes in trade rules to benefit the poor. They also aim to mobilise public opinion to support fair-trade practices.

The Fairtrade mark is an independent guarantee that a product is fairly traded. Traidcraft uses this for product lines designed for supermarkets to help customers to recognise the fairly traded product amongst ordinary products on the shelf. (Our local supermarket now stock a range of Fairtrade coffees, teas and sugar and have recently started to stock the popular stem ginger cookies and double chocolate chip cookies.)

The Fairtrade mark guarantees the following:

- Farmer organisations a fair and stable price for their product
- Extra income for farmers and plantation workers to improve their lives
- Greater respect for the environment
- Small scale farmers a stronger positioning world markets
- A closer link between consumers and producers

(continued on next page)

Here are some examples of how the lives of workers and their communities have been transformed through Fairtrade.

Adriano Kalili works as a plucker at the Kibena tea plantation in Tanzanir. He has been able to pay school fees for his 10 year old daughter. The Fairtrade fund administered by Kibena has supplied Adriano with iron sheeting for the roof of his new house. The fund has also paid for building and equipping new primary schools, village dispensaries and a new maternity ward at the local hospital.

Ehud Kafaukoma, a sugar farmer from Kasinthula Cane Growers Limited in Malawi says, “We would not even have dreamt that we could have electricity. It was something that nobody could imagine.”

Celia Gonzalezs started keeping bees in 1999 and now has 25 hives. She is on the board of Apicoop, the Chilean co-operative that supplies Traidcraft with honey. (Chilean honey is also used in Geobars.) Celia attended night school every day of the week from 6.30 to 10.30pm to complete her high school education – 15 years after she first started. Apicoop has paid for further training and she works in the co-op’s laboratory two days a week. “My dream is for all my children to finish high school and I want to increase my beehives so there will be money if any of them want to go to university.

We thank you for supporting our sales and hope you will continue to do so. A wide variety of Fairtrade goods are also available in Stone at Wikijum and at Oulton Village Hall on Monday mornings. Do support them too if you can! If this isn’t possible there is the supermarket!

Sheila Hawley

Sayings

In God’s eyes it is a great thing to do a little thing well.

All creation is an outstretched finger pointing towards God.

The test of progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much, it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little. (Franklin D. Roosevelt)

Some minds are like concrete, thoroughly mixed up and permanently set.

The tongue, being in a wet place, is apt to slip.

From Dave Rowlands

The bible says let the word of God dwell in you richly, but what if you don't have a bible in your own language? This is where the Bible Society comes in. Since the time when Mary Jones saved up for 5 years to own a bible of her own and walked 20 miles over the Welsh mountains to Bala to find a man who could sell her one, the Bible Society has been in the business of trying to let people all over the world have God's written word, the bible, in their own language. This means that people with a gift of translation can spend as much as 20 years translating God's word into the local language of different countries. As well as that they have a Bible a month club in which people from this land can purchase a bible a month to enable someone in the third world to have a bible of their own.

Now then if people overseas are so keen to have a bible, why is it that so many people in this country treat this life changing book with such contempt? Are you a regular reader of this fantastic book? In Gaza the Hezbollah are so furious that Muslims might buy a bible that they have kidnapped and killed the Manager of the Bible Society bookshop to warn off people from buying this wonderful book. He leaves a wife expecting her third child and there is no state pension there to help her.

In another instance there was a man in Nepal who has heard about Jesus through a leaflet given to him but he did not have a bible. One day a Bible Society man was in the country and was able to give him a bible in his own language. He was ecstatic! And in turn was able to bring many other people to know the Lord Jesus because he could show them about Jesus life here on earth and why he had to die for our sins.

These are a few of the reasons why Bible Society exists and why you should read your own bible and also support the work of Bible Society.

Kath Thompson

The PCC met on Wednesday 16 January 2008 and the following matters were reported on, discussed and/or decided.

- ✓ Planning permission and a faculty is to be applied for. This is for the latest plans proposing to improve the access between the church and the centre. The plans involve the building of a porch at the corner where the church and the centre are connected and converting the first window in the church at that point into a doorway into the porch. The pews on that side of church would be brought into the central pews and create the aisle along the wall. Double doors are proposed for the annex room to face the porch and the windows within the annex room to allow more light into the room. The current single door into the annex would be removed and bricked up. The plan is on display in the annex room of the centre.
- ✓ A few amendments were approved to the policy for the management and use of the centre. These included a review of the rates for hire, clarification on room capacities and adequate supervision of children and young people.
- ✓ We are to pursue the use of more energy efficient lighting.
- ✓ The evening service on the third Sunday of the month has been extended to include more time for prayer.
- ✓ There has been more than one expression of interest in the Youth Worker vacancy. The Vicar asked that we pray that we recognise the right person from God's point of view for this important work area.
- ✓ The Deanery Synod proposal of merging the Stone and Eccleshall Deaneries was discussed. The PCC agreed unanimously to respond 'No to Uniting' at the next meeting of the Stone Deanery on 21 January.

The next PCC meeting is on Monday 10 March 2008.

What Easter means to Me

Light beyond the darkness

Hope instead of despair

Fullness of LIFE – not the emptiness of death

The Lord is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia! (Sally)

I was Guilty, ashamed and bound up, condemned and deserving punishment.

But now, because of EASTER, I am innocent, accepted ad free; forgiven and able to be me! Hallelujah!

(Dave Rowlands)

Every time I hear the story of Easter it reminds me of something someone once told me. That is “If you ever want to find Jesus you will find him in a prison visitors centre”. The trauma, the stigma, the shame, the humiliation is there to see in these suffering families. Please pray for HALLOW and the team as it continues to do the work in Visitor Centres in prisons.

(Val Ledward)

It is a time when everything comes to life and when we rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. It makes me cringe and very sad when I hear his name taken in vain by people who do not know what a privilege it is to know him as a FRIEND and SAVIOUR.

(Irene)

Rebirth (Oliver)

New Life: Rescue: Jesus (Catherine)

Jesus died on the cross: Easter Eggs: Easter egg hunt (Eloise)

Easter is Love (Sally)

Easter is about Jesus dying on the cross and sacrificing his own life to save ours. (Rachel and Eleanor)

What Easter means to Me *(continued)*

Being a person who enjoys gardening and flowers, the lack of flowers during Lent really speaks to me.

In gardening there is always a preparing and waiting time, and also in Lent.

Then on Easter morning when the church is arrayed with flowers, it speaks to me of something of the glory of Easter.

(Dilys)

I think that Easter is the point in the year that we can say “Jesus really is Lord” the most, because he died on the cross for our sins. The giving of chocolate eggs, for me, is also relevant for the reason that the egg symbolises new life, an also is like the stone that was rolled away.

(Philip)

It's very easy to go through the motions of being a committed Christian and to forget how amazing the truth is that we celebrate. We worship and serve a risen, living Saviour who died on the cross to enable us to be forgiven, and rose again that we might have everlasting, real, abundant life. For me, Easter makes me realise this truth anew – Jesus is alive today!!

(Cecilia)

The debt of all my sins has been paid in full, by the death of Jesus on the cross.

Now that he is risen, he waits to welcome me home. Alleluia.

(Mike)

What does Easter mean to me? It means that because Jesus is alive today, having overcome Satan and death on the cross, I can be his friend and talk to him whenever I like and He can talk to me. Also when I am feeling very guilty about a broken relationship or anything else that I have done wrong, I can just go and confess it to him and he will enable me to put things right and get back on track with himself. (Kath)

Easter has meant many things to me but from childhood to now - even in times of great sadness - there has always been a looking forward and a promise of joy.

Everywhere there is new growth, signs of new life in gardens and countryside which lift my spirits. Above all is the knowledge of forgiveness and a certainty of renewal in my life --- A NEW START AND A SURE HOPE.

(Barbara)

ROADS FOR PRAYER

2nd March

Albert Street
Alexandra Street
Arthur Street
Berkeley Street

9th March

The Crescent
End of Granville Terrace
Millers Gate
Harley Drive



16th March

Chestnut Grove
Edward Street
Field Terrace
Field House Court
Kent Grove

23rd March

Meaford Avenue
Mount Avenue
Mount Crescent
Mount Road

30th March

Mount Street
Old Road
Stonefield Court
Stonefield Square

Girlguiding Stone Outward Division
Stages their biennial show
“A HANDFUL OF SONGS”
from the 25th – 29th March

7.15 pm with a matinee 2.00 pm Saturday
at The Rep Theatre, Leek Road, Stoke
Tickets available from ticket secretary
01785 760682



Sunday School



Easter Pictures

By Verity, Lucy and Dominique (sorry we can't show them in colour)

Christ Church on the Internet

Parish website

www.churches.lichfield.anglican.org/stone/stoneecc

Parish office email

christchurch.centre1@btinternet.com

Magazine contributions

christchurch_mag@yahoo.co.uk

¹⁹**Lent Course: *The Church in the Power of the Spirit.***

This year we will dig deeper into what is true Christian spirituality. Lessons will be drawn from Paul's first letter to the church at Corinth: a church which was founded 20 years after the resurrection of Jesus Christ, set in a cosmopolitan Greek port full of philosophers, a plurality of religions and prostitutes! The city was dedicated to pleasure, fascinated by rhetoric and knowledge, but wonderfully responded to the good news of Jesus Christ. We will get to grips with what was written to this dynamic but also chaotic church, which Paul loved with passion and exasperation in equal measures!

The letter helps us to learn about the vitality and spiritual gifts of the early church while re-examining some of our assumptions about modern church life. The letter will help us to learn from how Paul handles various hot issues without inhibiting vitality or compromising the truth.

Information cards will be available for all the churches in the benefice. The course will be on Wednesday evenings at 7.45 p.m. and we are using a series of DVD recorded talks.

I hope that you will plan to attend the course so that we will increasingly be a church that lives in the power of the Spirit.

Paul Kingman.

AN EVENING WITH PHIL & ARTHUR **SATURDAY 8th MARCH AT 7.00 PM** **IN THE CENTRE**

Something for everyone Sale of plants and pots of spring bulbs Guessing games to play with great prizes to win Be part of a team in a light-hearted quiz Refreshments

Proceeds to the church general fund

Tickets £1 from Phil & Arthur and from Irene & Carole in the Office

FROM THE REGISTERS

WEDDING

13th February Peshraw Abdullah and Callie Hanmer

FUNERALS

17th January Michael Swales aged 78

17th January Jean Brookes aged 66

30th January Doreen Price aged 89

Stafford Crematorium

8th February Evelyn Guest aged 98

SIDESPERSIONS ROTA

	AM	PM
2nd Mar	B.Hutchinson, M.Hutchinson A.Greer, G. Holden	D. Shemilt
9th Mar	A. West. J.Abrahams S.Hallam, T. MacFarlane	P. Tunstall
16th Mar	P. Hipkiss, D. Davies V. Ledward, J. Rowlands	D. Shemilt
23rd Mar	A. Greer, C. Wilding D. Wilson, I. Gassor	P. Tunstall
30th Mar	B.Hutchinson, M.Hutchinson G. Holden, D. Pickles	D. Shemilt

FLOWER ROTA

2nd March	Mothering Sunday
9th March	Lent
16th March	Palm Sunday
23rd March	Easter
30th March	Flower Guild



EASTER FLOWERS NOTICE

The Flower Guild would be most grateful for donations towards the cost of Easter Flowers. There will be a plate at the back of church and in the Centre on Sundays March 9th and March 16th or donations can be left at the Parish Office. If there are names to be entered into the Book of Remembrance please hand these to Barbara Thornicroft or to Marylyn Hillman by March 16th.

Thank you, Marylyn Hillman

Deanery Synod Reps	Mrs S Hallam, Mr I Hawley, Mr D. Rowlands
P.C.C. Members	Mrs I Gassor, Mrs M Hillman, Mrs E Mason, Mr P Mason Mrs D Wilson, Mrs E Woodhead, Mrs J. Rowlands Mrs S. Morray, Mrs J. Abrahams, Mr K. Reynolds Mr A. Stone, Mr G. Holden, Mrs A. Greer
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 Group	Jeanette Rowlands.....816713
Parents & Toddlers (Mon 9.30 – 11.15am)	Sandra Morray.....286093
Friday "Little Fishes" (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 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