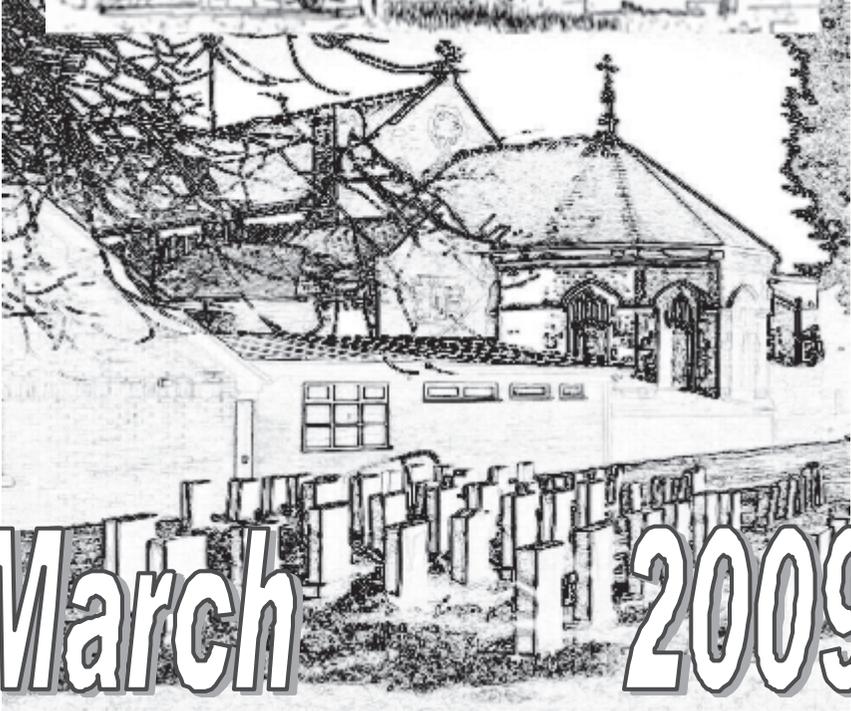


Christ Church and People

Parish Magazine of
Christ Church Stone

40p



March

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 at 9.15 am
(see page 21 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	Carole or Irene	(Office)	811990
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CHURCH SCHOOLS

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

Head: Mrs Lynne Croxall B.Ed.(Hons)	354125
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Christ Church C.E.(Aided) Middle School, Old Road

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



and People

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

Cover Story:- View of the church from the back

March 2009

Sun	1	9:15am 6:00pm	Communion. Luke 12:54-13:9 "Repentance" Evening Prayer at CC Daniel 6 "In the lions' den"
Mon	2	9:00am 7:00pm 7:45pm	Prayers for schools and young people Cornerstone for teenagers Coalport Drive home group
Tue	3	9:30am 10:00am 7:30pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before service; Midweek service at 10:30 Christ Church Youth Club
Wed	4	7:30pm	Lent Course in the Centre
Thu	5	1:20pm	Christ Church Middle School assembly
Fri	6	10:00am 6:30pm	Christianity Explored for women Breathe
Sat	7	8:30am 7:00pm	Prayer meeting; Breakfast in the Centre at 9:00am An evening with Phil and Arthur in the Centre
Sun	8	9:15am 6:00pm	Morning Prayer. Luke 13:10-17 "The Sabbath rest" Communion at Christ Church Daniel 7 "Divine sight"
Mon	9	9:00am 7:00pm	Prayers for schools and young people Cornerstone for teenagers
Tue	10	9:30am 10:00am 1:10pm 7:30pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before service; Midweek service at 10:30 Y9 assembly at Alleynes Christ Church Youth Club
Wed	11	7:30pm	Lent Course in the Centre
Thu	12	1:20pm	Christ Church Middle School assembly
Fri	13	10:00am 6:30pm	Christianity Explored for women Breathe
Sat	14		Course for preachers in the Centre
Sun	15	9:15am 2:30pm 6:00pm	Communion Luke 13:18-35 "The just desserts" Holiday Club training in the Centre Evening Prayer at CC Daniel 8 "Kingdoms crumble"
Mon	16	9:00am 7:00pm 7:30pm 7:45pm	Prayers for schools and young people Cornerstone for teenagers PCC meeting Coalport Drive home group

March 2009

Tue	17	9:30am 10:00am 7:30pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before service; Midweek service at 10:30 Christ Church Youth Club
Wed	18	10:00am 7:30pm	Men's Fellowship Lent Course in the Centre
Thu	19	1:10pm 1:20pm	Y10 assembly at Alleynes Christ Church Middle School assembly
Fri	20	10:00am 6:30pm	Christianity Explored for women Breathe
Sat	21		
Sun	22	9:15am 10:30am 6:00pm	Mothering Sunday Family service Luke 18:15-30 "How to enter the kingdom" Fairtrade stall in the Centre Communion at CC Daniel 9 "Confessor's concern"
Mon	23	9:00am 7:00pm	Prayers for schools and young people Cornerstone for teenagers
Tue	24	9:30am 10:00am 7:30pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before service: Midweek service at 10:30am Christ Church Youth Club
Wed	25	1:10pm 7:30pm	Y11 Assembly at Alleynes Lent Course in the Centre
Thu	26	1:20pm	Christ Church Middle School assembly
Fri	27	10:00am 6:30pm	Christianity Explored for women Breathe
Sat	28		<i>Don't forget to set your clocks 1 hour forward!</i>
Sun	29	9:15am 6:00pm	Communion Luke 19:11-27 "Serving the king" Evening Prayer at CC Daniel 10 "Forward planning"
Mon	30	9:00am 7:00pm 7:45pm	Prayers for schools and young people Cornerstone for teenagers Coalport Drive home group
Tue	31	9:30am 10:00am 7:30pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before service: Midweek service at 10:30am Christ Church Youth Club

Also;- Seekers Club at the Middle School every Tuesday 12:30pm

Getting in touch with our Father

A report has just been published about childhood. It suggests that children suffer because of parents! The Good Childhood® Inquiry, commissioned by The Children's Society in 2006, received evidence from 30,000 children, adults and professionals and undertook a comprehensive review of research.

Perhaps the sharpest criticism made is of parents. The reports finds that a child's happiness is most threatened by adults who aggressively pursue their own success; by family breakdown; not being allowed to explore outside unsupervised; being pushed towards sex at an early age; too much television, video games, and advertising; not enough exercise; less belief in values such as generosity and fairness; too much emphasis on school league tables. By contrast the value of stable family relationships is abundantly clear. Children benefit from parents who show a long-term commitment and a love that dares to discipline.

We may approve of the report, or baulk at its criticisms or even dismiss it as focussing on the worst cases. I guess most of us would say 'we're doing the best we can!' However, it has brought to mind something that Jesus teaches us which helps us to be a good parent and a good child. It concerns short-term strategies and long term goals.

Jesus spoke about the importance of getting in touch with our heavenly Father. Daily concerns press on our minds and absorb our energy, but we are to trust the one who loves us: *"do not worry, saying 'what shall we eat?' or 'what shall we drink?' or 'what shall we wear?'* For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them' (Matthew 6v31-32). When we trust that our Heavenly Father knows our every need it means we are less anxious: we are not forgotten or overlooked. Jesus also helps us to avoid slipping into a lifestyle that becomes driven, self-centred and materialistic when he instructs us to re-set our priorities: *"But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well"* (Mt 6v33). When we start to live by our Father's priorities then life takes on a different pattern: one that worries less because it trusts the Father; one that is a blessing to us and others; one that avoids anxiety over short term gains and instead invests in the things which are of eternal importance.

So, come and tune with us as we look to learn more about our heavenly Father's plan and purpose.



Paul Kingman.

Enjoying God's Word

Whenever a poll is taken to investigate the spiritual practices of Christians, the results are normally the same: we don't read the Bible as much as we should. Some find the Bible confusing. Many don't really see the point of the Old Testament. Isn't it all a bit obscure? Yet, when we see believers in Bible talk about God's Word – it is something they revel in.

The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. ...[The words of God] are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb. (Psalm 19:8, 10)

So here's the test: when you are feeling low, or tired – where do you turn? Maybe the TV and something that requires no brain power. A familiar light-hearted DVD? Browsing the web (that's my favourite)? How many turn to the Bible?

You see, we don't *really believe* that God's Word brings joy and satisfaction. A mouthful of Scripture doesn't normally taste like honey to us.

Maybe one problem is that we tend to read the Bible as a series of assorted nuggets – small morsels to chew on. There's nothing wrong with savouring short bits, sucking the goodness out of them. But most of the Bible is story: it's The Great Story, to be read chapters at a time.

You will find some great resources at <http://www.biblereadthru.com/> to read the Bible through once, twice (or even more) in a year. You might try to read a certain amount each day (you only need 4 chapters a day to get you through the Bible in one year) but what about simply turning open your Bible when you have some spare time, instead of going straight for a novel or the television. If you regularly drive more than 20 minutes, say, buy the Bible on CD or get hold of mp3 files (I can point you towards good ones). A 30 minute commute, twice a day, will get you through the Bible in less than 4 months.

Or maybe take up the Lent Challenge – the whole Bible in 6 weeks. (See me for details.)

Sure, you won't understand every part. That's okay. The Bible is there to be enjoyed. Reading it at “high speed” (in a year or less) is a fantastic way of discovering the sweetness of Scripture – because from cover to cover we see our Saviour at work. And He always brings joy.

Tim Vasby-Burnie
tim@vasbyburnie.net

GOOD FRIDAY WITNESS 2009 - April 10th

**10.00 am Assemble for service at
St Michael's.***

****(10.00 AM CHILDREN ASSEMBLE AT
CHRIST CHURCH CENTRE
FOR EASTER GARDEN CRAFT TIME)***

**10.20 am PROCESSION OF WITNESS
to Market Square in High Street**

**10.40 am PROCESSION OF WITNESS
to Christ Church for service.**

and

Drinks and Hot Cross Buns

**Please come and be part of This
most important event**

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 23rd February till 8th March. Our supplier has launched a new product and a revamped product ready for fair-trade fortnight. The new product is the UK's first Fairtrade rubber gloves! The revamped product is improved recipes for Geobars, including 2 more fair-trade ingredients and 2 new flavours.

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. Other fair-trade products can be ordered via the catalogue (including clothes!)

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 common fight against poverty. Their vision is a world freed from the scandal of poverty where trade is just and people and communities can flourish.

Traidcraft also runs a development charity – Traidcraft Exchange. (Ruth Parsons was able to send a £500 donation to Traidcraft Exchange in January from the sale of excess stock.) As a trading company and a development charity they are able to influence opinion in the charitable, business and public sectors.

Traidcraft works to build lasting relationships with small scale producers in developing countries. Supplier support teams visit all the trading partners in turn to ensure that trade is really fair. Visits last for several days, often with independent people who speak the language. The teams visit the production site, see the working conditions and meet the workers. They aim to support business development e.g. by giving grants to improve machinery or provide training.

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

(continued on next page)

Adriano Kalili works as a plucker at the Kibena tea plantation in Tanzania. His fair wage has enabled him to build a 3 -bedroomed house for his wife, Alizeta and their 3 children. The Fairtrade fund administered by Kibena has supplied Adriano with iron sheeting for the roof. 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.

Narmaben Manji works as a cotton farmer in India. She hopes that selling her organic cotton to Agrocel will help to provide her grandsons with a better future. (Marks and Spencer are now sourcing cotton direct from this company.)

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 which supplies a selection of Fairtrade goods. Perhaps one day Stone will be a Fairtrade town like Stafford!

Sheila Hawley

Breathe Youth Group

Over the past month or so, a small group of us have been meeting up every Friday to organise a new youth group for kids in school years 6-8 (ages 10-13). On Friday 6th February the group started up.

1 Peter 4:10 tells us that "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms."

I have really seen this verse in action during the past few weeks, while organising the new Youth Group (sporting the name "Breathe"). In six weeks, we managed to turn a good idea into a fantastic reality, and each one of us has helped to make that happen, using the gifts that God has given to us.

The 6th February saw the first week of the group. We had a great evening, with loads of fun activities, crafts and challenges, fantastic games (which the leaders couldn't help but join in with!), and awesome teaching.

It's been great to see so many children from Christ Church Middle School coming along, as well as some of the church's youth. It's been such an inspiration to see the number of attendees almost doubling from the first week to the second.

The youth group runs every Friday, from 6:30 until 8:30 for any children in school years 6-8. Every week, we will be supplying activities, sports, games, challenges, teachings, tuck shop, plus free time with facilities such as table tennis, crafts, table football and pool table.

We hope to see you there!

Tom Woodhead

Thank You from Diana

A very big thank-you to Paul, Ann, Magazine girls, Phil and Diana (thank you Phil for standing in for me) and many more church members, for their visits, prayers, cards, flowers and phone calls. I am at last making slow progress towards recovery. God bless you all.

Diana Shemilt

Since our last letter we have been learning a lot more about Wedgwood in Yr3 and Yr4.

At Wedgwood it was great. Yr4 and yr3 did lots of activities such as dipping the clay flowers into the watery paint and we made some medallions. In the museum we made fabulous guide books.

Miss Barr has introduced a new science club which is held on Friday in year 2.

Mrs Sands has started a study club on Tuesday which helps some children with maths.

Mr Hindhaugh and Mrs Fitzpatrick say that it was good in France. They met French, Polish and Turkish teachers. There was a bigger school, which had less displays and computers but there was a toy collage and the toys were stuck on with polyfiller. The school had 420 pupils.

Last week Reception went on their first safety walk wearing their hi-vis jackets.

This year our lent appeal is for St. John Ambulance who have launched an International Patient Relief Appeal to collect for the three eye hospitals in Israel. We are very excited about this and will keep you updated about our progress.

By Bethany and Eloise – Year 4
Christ Church First School

Christ Church Choir 1947

Mr D. Hall has sent us a newspaper clipping containing a photograph of Christ Church choir, taken in 1947. Unfortunately we cannot print the photograph, but the choir members include:-

K. Farr, J. Sandland, S. Royston, J. Finnemore, Revd Glue, J. Nevitt, K. Boote, M. Nevitt, B. Pearce, C. Sandland, J. Noon, J. Burnett, D. Hall, J. Blakeman, I. Gerrard, B. Green, K. Blakeman, A. Warrilow, K. Salt, D. Warrilow, H. Plant, Mr Oldham, Gerald Tyler, Geoffrey Tyler, Frank Myatt, George Buxton, Joseph Rigby, Frank Boote, Rosemary Price, Molly Brook, Barbara Slynn, Derek Slynn and Frank Boote's son.

Thank you, Mr Hall.

An opportunity not to be missed:

Saturday 25th April at Lichfield Cathedral
10.00a.m.-4.00p.m.

In last month's magazine there was an article by Bishop Jonathan on the importance of prayer in our Christian life, both as individuals and in the life of the church. He mentioned the importance of resources that nourish this prayer life and "build the transforming friendship which is our invisible relationship with the Lord."

"Radiance" will be just one such resource. The keynote address will be given by Esther de Waal, an internationally renowned author and lecturer on the traditions of Christian spirituality. Having heard her talk, and read several of her books I would certainly recommend her as being someone well-worth going to hear.

Apart from the keynote address, there will be workshops exploring Franciscan, Celtic and Ignatian spirituality, time and space for private prayer, an opportunity for prayer ministry, and a Communion Service at the heart of the day.

Admission will be £5.00 and you can get further details from the Rev. Paul Thomas, tel:01785 258796.

Within our Christian heritage we have great treasures to be discovered - this day will be an opportunity to discover some of these resources which can be incredibly helpful in our Christian journey. Do book the date now in your diary and try and go. I shall certainly hope to be there.

Sally Vaughan



Lent Course 2009

Grace that Transforms

1. What is God's plan for my life?
2. What am I aiming for?
3. How does God change me?
4. How does God form community?
5. How can we bless the world?

Wednesday Evenings from 4th March:

7:45 – 9pm (7pm coffee and desserts) Christ Church Centre

Tuesday Afternoons from 3rd March:

2 – 3.15pm Oulton Church

Lent Course 2009

For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all people. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope-- --the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good. Titus 2:11-14

Good Reasons NOT to come:

- n Your best evangelistic opportunities are on Wednesdays.
- n You are showing Christ-like love and commitment to someone or some people on Wednesday evening.

Bad Reasons not to come:

- n A Lent Course isn't your thing.
- n "Sunday mornings are sufficient, thank you."
- n "My walk with Jesus is fine."

Good Reasons to come:

- n You have been baptised.
- n You want to walk in step with the Spirit
- n The World needs Christians who love like Christ.
Jesus is Alive!

For more information contact Tim Vasby-Burnie:

tim@vasbyburnie.net 01785 814244

Farm Fellowship Prayer

This is a prayer of commitment that was prayed together by the Farm Fellowship (a church plant up in Preston) during their first church meeting of 2009. When I first read it I was greatly inspired and when I first prayed it I was deeply challenged.

your brother, Adam Rushton

Sisters and brothers in Christ, let us respond again to the Kingdom call of Jesus of Nazareth. The Living God calls us to follow Jesus - to trust Him in life and death; to accept Him as the LORD of all we think and do and say.

This means that, by the help of the Holy Spirit, we accept God's purpose for us, and the call to love and serve God in all our life and work. Jesus has many services to be done: some are easy, others are difficult; some bring honour, others bring opposition; some are suitable to our natural inclinations and material interests, others are contrary to both; in some we may please Jesus and please ourselves; in others we cannot please Jesus except by denying ourselves. Yet the power to do all these things is given to us in Jesus, who strengthens us.

Therefore let us commit to the way, truth and life of Jesus. Let us give ourselves to Him, trusting in his promises and relying on His grace and friendship.

Eternal God, in your faithful and enduring love you call us to share in your gracious covenant in Jesus Christ. In obedience we hear and accept your commands; in love we seek to do your perfect will; with joy we offer ourselves anew to you. We are no longer our own but yours.

I am no longer my own but yours. Your will, not mine, be done in all things wherever you may place me, in all that I do and in all that I may endure; when there is work for me and when there is none; when I am troubled and when I am at peace. Your will be done when I am valued and when I am disregarded; when I find fulfillment and when it is lacking; when I have all things, and when I have nothing. I willingly offer all I have and am to serve you, as and where you choose. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

15 **AN EVENING WITH ARTHUR AND PHIL**
SATURDAY 7TH MARCH AT 7.00 PM IN THE
CHURCH CENTRE

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE:

Sale of the plants & pots of spring bulbs

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

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

Refreshments

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

All proceeds to the church general fund.

Sermon series for February to April

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

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

(from Stehen Bell, working in the Dubrava church in Zagreb, Croatia)

INTRODUCTION

Baptist Church Dubrava has developed quite a lot since a small group of believers from BC Radiæeva decided to pioneer a new church in Eastern Zagreb. Since then congregations have grown into the sixties and even seventies, people have joined the church sensing that God is ready to do something in the East. Also seven have found a new and dynamic faith in Jesus. Summer 2008, due to lack of space, a wall was knocked down and new space rented, providing a capacity of 150.

Expectation is in the air!

“It is amazing what God can do with one man fully given to his God.” That is what evangelist and pastor D.L. Moody once said. Imagine if a whole church commits itself to God and His mission! Therefore the leadership of BC Dubrava believes *now* is the time to reach out to eastern Zagreb. If each member joins together, fully available to God, then all things are possible!

THE VISION

- Four evangelistic Sunday morning services in March 2009, when we already meet and worship.
- Everything in the services will be geared especially to the visitor who knows nothing of our church culture.
- Our goal is that they enjoy the service, finding it stimulating, challenged by Jesus’ love and plan for their lives and at the same time feeling “comfortable in our presence”.
- During January and February every member has been involved in a “personal evangelism training programme”, without having to attend extra meetings!
- Then we’ll have ProChrist, leading up to Easter.

ProChrist 1-5th March

5 evenings of satellite evangelistic meetings with evangelist Ullrich Parcany. May the church be filled with people and blessing leading up to Easter!

Stephen Bell

As the world becomes aware of the intense human suffering around Goma in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, our planes are in action. A team we have flown in support of one of our long-term partner organisations working in the area has achieved really fruitful ministry. They carried out medical work, distributed life-saving mosquito nets and conducted trauma management training for 500 pastors. Do pray for an early solution to the long-running unrest.

Vision Valley Church has a vision! Located in Antananarivo, capital of Madagascar, it is involved in pioneering ministry among largely unreached people along the Mangoky River. This is the heart of the cattle-rustling 'red zone', and the people there live in daily fear of the *dahalo* - cattle thieves who steal, rape and pillage. One flight to the airstrip at Ankavandra was an emergency trip to bring a man with a gunshot wound to hospital in the capital. We have now made 13 trips there for teams from Vision Valley Church, which has been given a plot to construct a school building - also to serve as the church and outreach centre. With less than half the people able to read, literacy training is high on the agenda-and every chance taken to explain the Gospel. Praise the Lord that we are able to help such mission work

Also in Madagascar, our aircraft took three tons of equipment and materials to Mitsinjo in the Mikobaka mountains for Norwegian Missionary Society to build a dispensary. The three flights took just one morning. By land, it would have taken an ox cart and 12 pairs of oxen 4 months - and on top of that, cost more! MAF supporters make a real difference!

Once again, thank you for especially sharing with us this month.

Yours sincerely,
Ian Oliver
Supporter Relations

18 Should people be charged for sitting in a church pew?

More news from 1885. An important church meeting was held on January 14th, 1885, to discuss pew rents. There was also a summary of the work done on the church, completed that year.

IMPORTANT MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION.

A MEETING of the members of Christ Church congregation was held on Wednesday, January 14th, at 7.30 p.m., in the Infant Schoolroom. There was a good attendance. The Vicar took the chair, and was supported by the Rev. A. Pearman, and the churchwardens, Mr. J. Timmis, and Mr. F. Adie. The object of the meeting was to discuss and to decide upon (1) The question of kneelers for the restored church. (2) A uniform pattern of rug seating. (3) The sittings. Patterns of hassock and rug seating were shown, and estimated prices given, but no final decision could be arrived at, it was thought, until the more difficult problem of "seats" had been solved. Here three chief suggestions were made:—

(1) That the centre portion of the church should be considered as "reserved," in general, for those members of the congregation who before held "pews." In lieu of "Pew rents," a "Churchwardens' List" to be opened, and members invited to add their names for amounts as they felt called upon to give. This was for the purpose of making up the £100 per annum, before derived from pew-rents, as part of the income of the Vicar.

(2) "That the old system of renting sittings be resorted to."

(3) "That the church be entirely free and open."

After considerable discussion it was decided to adjourn the meeting for a week, so as to give time for further consideration.

The adjourned meeting was held as before in the Infant Schoolroom, on Wednesday, January 21st.

Mr. J. Timmis proposed, and Mr. Lament seconded, "That the church be 'free and open,' and that it be tried as an experiment for one year." This was unanimously carried. And so the matter is now amicably settled.

1st March

Longton Road
Margaret Street
Newcastle Road
Newcastle Street

8th March

Northesk Street
Radford Close
Radford Street
Station Road, Lotus Court

**15th March**

The Avenue
Trent Road
Tunley Street
Trinity Drive

22nd March

Airdale Grove
Airdale Road
Airdale Spinney
Cross Street

29th March

Nicholls Lane
Old Road
Old Road Close
Oulton Cross

(more from 1885)

THE CHURCH.

By the time these lines reach you, the Restoration of the Church will be an accomplished fact. The work is now rapidly drawing to an end, and all will be quite ready by the time appointed by the Bishop for the re-opening.

It may interest our general readers to hear what the nature and extent of these alterations have been. A new chancel has been built, together with an organ chamber on the north side, and a clergy vestry on the south side. The chancel is fitted up with oak choir seats and clergy-desk of a very neat and simple design, and the floor laid with Minton's tiles. A new stone pulpit has been placed in the body of the church, for which our grateful thanks are due to a member of the congregation, who undertook to collect the money required for it.

The entire body of the church has been re-arranged. The old pews have been removed, and a centre aisle made. We have now open seats. The old east window has gone to fill up the west, and the organ and choir have quitted the gallery. The whole of the interior has been cleaned and coloured, and great improvements have been made both in the lighting and heating of the church.

The re-opening will mark a new era in the history of our parish. But we are far from wishing it to end here. We want it to mark a new beginning in the spiritual life of the Church—of each member. Many of us, like the church, need the renovating power of the Holy Spirit. Let us take a copy from this earthly fabric, and come back to our beautified house of prayer, with renewed love, fresh zeal, and a more complete sense of dedication to the service of Almighty God. So, too, with our various organizations. Let there be an infusion of new life, and an expansion of their usefulness.

FROM THE REGISTERS

BAPTISM

8th February Joshua James Riley

FUNERALS

2nd February Joan Bennett Age 75

Stafford Crematorium

19th January Mark Banting Age 53

SIDESPERSIONS ROTA

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

FLOWER ROTA

1st March	Lent
8th March	Lent
15th March	Lent
22nd March	Lent
29th March	Lent



Christ Church on the Internet

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

Parish office email christchurch.centre1@btinternet.com

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 J Abrahams, Mr K Reynolds, Mr A Stone Mrs M Garrington-Miller, Mr G Holden, Mrs D Davies
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 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

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

- Sun 1st Today is the last day of **Global Poverty Prayer Week**, which has been an opportunity to pray for the poorest people and communities in the world. The earth is precious, and when God created it, He declared it 'good'. Thank God for Christians across the world who took part in the week of prayer and ask God to motivate us to care for His creation.
- Mon 2nd Please pray for the success of the new unity government in **Zimbabwe**. Pray that it can work and bring real change to help the lives of its citizens. Please pray that the cholera outbreak can be brought under control. Tearfund partners have been helping in Bulawayo by repairing the damaged sewage system and also restoring boreholes to bring water supplies to people in the suburbs.
- Tue 3rd Give thanks for Tearfund partner, Diaconia, working with HIV patients in the cities of north-east **Brazil**. It is helping a group of church volunteers who provide spiritual and practical support to patients coming from rural areas for treatment. Give thanks for the commitment and support of the Brazilian government since the start of the epidemic in the early 1980s.
- Wed 4th A new law has recently been passed in **Ethiopia**, criminalising human rights activities undertaken by organisations who receive more than 10% of their funding from abroad. Tearfund partners in Ethiopia are involved in advocacy work to 'defend the rights of the poor and needy' (Prov 3:19) Pray that the effectiveness of their work is not lessened or compromised.
- Thu 5th Please pray for peace to return to north Kivu province in the **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)**. Hopes have been raised following the arrest of a key rebel leader. Please pray also for the safety of Tearfund partners who have been helping displaced families. Give thanks that they have

24 been able to provide basic necessities for 75,000 of the most vulnerable people affected by the conflict.

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

Kate e-mailed us on 5 February, at which time Tim was in the UK visiting his Dad who is sick, and meeting with doctors and his father's carers. She praises God that one of their sponsor boys who had been in prison for a minor crime, has been released and felt able to return to Jigsaw where he was welcomed with open arms. They praise God too for God's financial provision for the work over the past five years.

- Fri 6th Pray for strength and wisdom for Tim in dealing with the difficult situation home here.
- Sat 7th Pray for Kate's parents over with her on a visit. Her mum is being a big help with their children so Kate can catch up on administration, and her dad is making painting easels and generally fixing things.
- Sun 8th Pray for the Jigsaw staff who are all working hard to make Jigsaw better and loads of fun for the kids who come.
- Mon 9th Rudolfo, who worked for Jigsaw, has left to go back to life on the street with his wife and 7 kids. Pray for protection for him and his family and that what he learnt about God while at Jigsaw may remain with him.

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

Owen & Tracy wrote mid-February telling us that they were all well and that school had now re-started properly and they were getting into the swing of things

- Tue 10th Praise God that they had a nice relaxing winter break and it was good to have Ben with them for a couple of weeks. Praise too that Ben has settled well into university.
- Wed 11th Tracy asks prayer for this, her busy term. The exam Art classes all need to produce a good amount of course work towards their final exam grades. Most students need a lot of advice on what they need to do.
- Thu 12th Pray for the new Principal. They should know the School Council's decision as to who it is by early March.
- Fri 13th The court case rumbles on though it is in its final stages. They say it would be good if it was all over by the end of March. Pray!!

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

There has been no recent news from the Barons. They too will be well into the new term, and will be very busy.

- Sat 14th Pray not only for the right person to be appointed as the School Principal
25 from the summer, but also for other staff vacancies to be filled.
- Sun 15th Pray for helpers and inspiration for Ralph & Dagmar as they take a lead with the Alternative Services on Sunday mornings for those older students who do not choose to attend a church service.
- Mon 16th Continue to pray for Ralph - re-designing the School web-site and looking into the feasibility of a partial move to Linux. Pray for an additional staff member to join his department, and for healing of his stiff, painful 'mouse-moving' arm. Pray also for Dagmar in her many responsibilities.
- Tue 17th Pray for Sarah and Keiran as they prepare for marriage and for all the practical details of their wedding, including finding places for family and guests to stay in Brighton over the time of the wedding.
- Wed 18th Pray for Helen & Elliot's health and safety in Islamabad.

ANDREW BUTTERWORTH – SOUTH AFRICA

Andrew e-mailed us in mid-February. He tells us there hasn't been much progress on the Oasis front. He is still trying to see the Tearfund rep who has promised to fund the HIV prevention project program. However, things are becoming clearer as to what is the best tactic to adopt. He writes:

- Thu 19th 'Thank God for all the Christians who are committed to working against AIDS in South Africa, and all the international interest which appears to remain.'
- Fri 20th 'Pray for sharing of wisdom and cooperation as HIV intervention still feels quite fragmented across southern Africa. Pray that a universal prevention course will emerge and that national governments will co-ordinate on testing and treatment facilities.'
- Sat 21st 'Many of the poorer South Africans lack hope because of their poverty, so pray that hope would be brought to them, and that alongside prevention and treatment for HIV, there would be help to bring them out of poverty.'
- Sun 22nd 'South Africa's schooling system is vastly under-funded currently and this compounds the problem. Without education people are less able to make the right choices. People without secondary schooling are far more likely to get HIV. Pray for government investment in schools and teachers.' (*See red folder underneath Overseas Mission notice board for a recent newsletter from Andrew*)

REBECCA – PAKISTAN

Rebecca e-mailed us mid-February – 'Thank you very much for your prayers. I was able to get a visa extension at the end of January for another year and am back in our

town now. We have a new housemate, Karla, who arrived very recently. Exams are going on ²⁶the university, and the new semester will start sometime soon. I am meantime teaching some other language classes.’ She continues:

- Mon 23rd ‘I am giving thanks for my visa extension, and for good and safe travel around the country.
Tue 24th It’s great that Karla has arrived safely. Please pray for her as she settles into life here.
Wed 25th Please pray for my university students, that I will continue to be able to build good relationships with them.’

STEPHEN & TABITA BELL, Sheona, Joshua & Benjamin – CROATIA
Stephen & Tabita are involved in a church-planting ministry in Zagreb, Croatia.

Thu 26th Please pray for new growth in the Dugo Sela area of Zagreb. After a concert before Christmas, many people said they would like to come to another Muzikids concert in Dugo Sela. It is hoped that the concerts will encourage people to join the new house-group.

Fri 27th Dubrava church leaders still hope that they will be able to build their own church building, but, for the moment, the work in the rented building is going well. Please pray that this church will know the way forward.

Sat 28th The Croatian currency has stayed fairly stable relative to the pound, so contributions to the ECM work there are still good value. Please pray that the funding for Stephen, Tabita, and the other church workers will enable them to continue the work.

JONATHAN & ROBINAH BEESIGOMWE – BOTSWANA

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

Sun 29th Funding for Jonathan and Robinah is often sent in US Dollars, so their funding is complex. The exchange rate has fluctuated considerably over recent years, so please pray that they receive enough money to live on after financial conversion.

Mon 30th Please pray for more opportunities for J & R to speak to churches, youth groups and other organisations.

Tue 31st Please pray that J & R will be able to help young families to stay together, and to be part of a church, and to bring up children in a Christian environment. Please pray also for J & R’s own family, now spread among several countries; may they also be a happy family.