

# Christ Church and People

40p



Parish Magazine of  
Christ Church Stone



May

2008

# PARISH DIRECTORY

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## SUNDAY SERVICES

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

**Young people's activities** take place in the Centre at 9.15 am  
(see page 17 for details)

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## THE PARISH TEAM

<b>Vicar</b>	Paul Kingman The Vicarage, Bromfield Court	812669
<b>Curate</b>	Tim Vasby-Burnie, 1 Navigation Loop Email tim@vasbyburnie.net	814244
<b>Electoral Roll Officer</b>	Irene Gassor	814871
<b>Parish Office</b>	Christ Church Centre, Christ Church Way, Stone, Staffs ST15 8ZB Email christchurch.centre1@btinternet.com	811990
<b>Deaconess (Retired)</b>	Ann Butler	818160
<b>Readers</b>	David Bell John Butterworth David Rowlands Michael Thompson Cecilia Wilding	815775 817465 816713 813712 817987
<b>Music Co-ordinators</b>	Peter Mason Jeff Challinor	815854 819665
<b>Wardens</b>	Phil Tunstall David Rowlands	817028 816713
<b>Deputy Wardens</b>	Shirley Hallam, Arthur Foulkes	
<b>Prayer Request List</b>	Barbara Thornicroft	818700

## CHRIST CHURCH CENTRE

<b>Booking Secretary</b>	Carole or Irene	(Office)	811990
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## CHURCH SCHOOLS

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

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

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 June  
magazine to us  
by 15th May

Cover Story:- Construction work near the canal

# May 2008

Thu	1	1:20pm 7:30pm	Christ Church Middle School assembly Ascension Day service at St. Michael's church
Fri	2		
Sat	3	8:30am 9:00am	Prayer meeting in church Breakfast in the Centre
Sun	4	9:15am  6:00pm	Communion. 2 Chronicles 30:1-9 "Turn from your wicked way" Evening Prayer at Oulton Matthew 9:18-34 "The Kingdom revealed"
Mon	5		
Tue	6	9:30am 10:00am 10:30am 12:30pm 7:30pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before midweek service Midweek service Seekers Club at Middle School Youth Club in the Centre
Wed	7		
Thu	8	1:20pm	Christ Church Middle School assembly
Fri	9		
Sat	10		
Sun	11	9:15am  6:00pm  All week	Morning Prayer. Luke 11:1-13 "The privilege of prayer" Communion at Oulton. Hebrews 4:1-13 "His eternal rest" Christian Aid Week
Mon	12	9:00am 7:00pm	Prayers for schools and young people Cornerstone for teenagers
Tue	13	9:30am 10:00am 10:30am 12:30pm 7:30pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before midweek service Midweek service Seekers Club at Middle School Youth Club in the Centre
Wed	14	7:30pm	PCC meeting
Thu	15	1:20pm	Christ Church Middle School assembly

# May 2008

Fri	16		
Sat	17		
Sun	18	9:15am 6:00pm	Communion Galations 3:26-4:7 "The language of prayer" Evening Prayer at Oulton Hebrews 4:14-5:10 "His reverent submission"
Mon	19	9:00am 7:00pm	Prayers for schools and young people Cornerstone for teenagers
Tue	20	9:30am 10:00am 10:30am 12:30pm 1:00pm 7:30pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before midweek service Midweek service Seekers Club at Middle School Fraternal meeting Youth Club in the Centre
Wed	21	9:30am 7:30pm	Men's meeting Prayer meeting in the Centre
Thu	22	1:20pm	Christ Church Middle School assembly
Fri	23		
Sat	24		
Sun	25	9:15am 10:15am 6:00pm	Family Service Ephesians 2:11-22 "Access for all" Fair Trade goods stall Communion at Oulton Hebrews 9:11-15 "His redemptive work"
Mon	26		
Tue	27	10:00am 10:30am 7:30pm	Coffee before midweek service Midweek service Youth Club in the Centre
Wed	28	7:30pm	Standing Committee
Thu	29		
Fri	30		
Sat	31		

## More precious than gold

Fragile. This is the descriptor used by news reporters for the state of the global economy, as the financial jitters spread and gold prices soar. Major banks have become vulnerable to rumours of imminent collapse, maliciously started to promote a dramatic fall in the value of stocks. The City has coined the new phrase ‘trashing and cashing,’ for this illegal practice. Someone is making a profit. Or so it seems.

Whether we, as Christ’s followers, are good or bad with money we are to be godly in how we handle it. The Bible encourages prudence so that we not only spend but also save in order to avoid debt and make provision for those who depend on us. It reminds us to put our faith in God; wealth is uncertain and we must not put our confidence in its power. It teaches us the joy of generosity, as we are inspired to be generous by God’s lavish giving of his only Son. But we’re also warned against the selfish accumulation of wealth, as ultimately we must leave it all behind.

We’re to invest in the Kingdom of God, who will give us an inheritance that keeps its value as it will never perish, spoil or fade. The apostle Peter wrote some reassuring words to persecuted Christians facing an uncertain future: *‘who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith – of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire – may be proved genuine and may result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed’* (1 Pet 1v5-7). When our faith is in Christ’s unique death and resurrection which reconciles us to God, then we can be sure of spending eternity with him and sharing in his wealth! Enduring trials purifies such faith. It leads to a growth in our thanks for his grace and a deeper loyalty to the one who is faithful. Faith in Jesus is more precious than gold because he alone can save us for eternity.

During May the church celebrates the Ascension of Jesus – the time when he returned to his home in heaven. So, let’s be the ones who genuinely set our sights on where he is. For heaven is where our inheritance is kept safe.

Paul Kingman.



## Mavericks and Mission

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Like the US Marines, the Church of God is an army with a mission. We have been tasked, by God himself, to storm the gates of hell, proclaim an alternative Kingdom and bring freedom to those captured by Satan. If General Tony Zinni is right, we would do well to follow the example of the Marines by having exacting discipleship (see last month's article) combined with a tolerance of mavericks and outside-the-box thinkers.

“Unlike other services, we [US Marines] aren't tied down to fixed techniques and doctrines. We have never been hidebound doctrinaires. We are more flexible and adaptable; concepts based rather than doctrine based. ... We really believe that if we educate and train our leaders and our officers to take charge, and give them broad conceptual guidelines, but don't bind them to these as a strict “doctrinal” necessity, they'll do a better job.

This quote requires careful handling! The Bible is clear that doctrine matters. Departing from Biblical truth always harms God's people and hinders mission. But I think the word 'doctrine' is being used in different ways. For Christians, doctrine is equivalent to Zinni's “broad conceptual guidelines.” When it comes to mission, Christian doctrine says that love and proclamation are essential, that Jesus really is the only way to God, that Bible and prayer are our weapons, and so on. These things are not up for negotiation. This is no more being “hidebound doctrinaire” than it would be for the Marines to agree who the good guys and bad guys are!

The Bible gives doctrine. But it seldom gives detailed instructions. When it comes to specifics, flexibility and adaptability are commended for the Church as for the Marines. You will not find detailed instructions in the Bible about what job to take, who to marry, what time to hold our services, what community projects to champion, and so on. The Spirit knew that the Church would inhabit many different cultures, geographical and historical, and so has not prescribed fixed techniques. We are to use all our God-given wisdom and imagination, working within Biblical truth but adapting our practice for the sake of mission. Notice it's for the sake of mission, not our particular tastes or traditions...

This is a plea for Bible-loving mavericks: disciples of Jesus who a) know their truth and why it matters, and b) can engage with culture and adapt for mission. As Paul wrote, “I have become all things to all people, so that by all possible means I might save some. I do this for the sake of the gospel, that I might share in its blessings.” (1 Corinthians 9:22-23)

Tim Vasby-Burnie

At Christ Church and Oulton morning services we will be looking at some New Testament writings about prayer. The term Pentecost is always associated with the time when the Holy Spirit was poured out on all God's people. This was a real watershed, as previously the Holy Spirit was a characteristic of prophets, priests and kings but of very few others. This significant marker called Pentecost prompts a short series entitled: *'Spirit inspired prayer'*. We will look at some of the great privileges that are associated with the marvel of being able to speak to the living God.

At Moddershall and also in the evening services we turn to the letter to the Hebrews under the title *'so great a salvation'*. Having recently completed a series on the miraculous works of Christ in Matthew's gospel, we now see more of what Christ achieved and how we now benefit.

Paul Kingman.

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### **Deanery communion for Ascension Day**

Ascension Day service for Stone Deanery of churches: 7.30 p.m. on Thursday 1st May at St Michael's Church, Stone. All welcome.

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### **Prayer Breakfast**

This takes place on the first Saturday of each month. We begin with prayers in church at 8:30am and then move into the Centre for a shared breakfast of fruit juice, cereals and toast. This is a valuable time of prayer and fellowship and anyone can come along, no need to book, just turn up.

Phil Tunstall

## Mission News

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The following are extracts from recent letters from our mission partners. Full copies of letters /reports are in the red folder under the Overseas Mission Notice Board in the Church Centre.

**The Balkans** – from an ECM report from **Stephen & Tabita** in Croatia:

‘The Balkans are famous for starting wars, kebabs (a delicious kind of meatball-sausage), male chauvinism and Turkish coffee. Often it is derided, most times it is just by-passed... an unimportant corridor, ostensibly in Europe, generally considered leading to nowhere.

**HOWEVER**, the Balkans are a dear place, teeming with friendly, hospitable people who seemingly have endless time for the passing guest.

**ON THE SPIRITUAL FRONT** the Balkans are no different. Largely forgotten as a mission field, it is to be noted for its sheer lack of evangelical Christians. Serbia, Bosnia, Kosova and even Croatia have less than an estimated 0.3% evangelicals.

**What is needed?** A mighty movement of God! Intercessors need to be raised up to pray for revival. As people pray, God will raise up His workers for the harvest field, both missionaries and from amongst local believers.

**Perhaps you can help??**

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**Greetings from India** – extracts from **Humphreys News**:

The family are well into the second of the two academic terms they have in a year at Hebron School in the Nilgiri Hills, South India. Ben remains in the UK on a gap year. Owen & Tracy wrote recently:

‘Please continue to pray for **Ben**. He has recently moved accommodation, sharing a house where he has no-one to mother him. It’s sink or swim!’

‘Exams: **Tracy** teaches all the year groups from 7-13. She is especially busy with the 34 students who are taking external exams in IGCSE, AS levels and A levels.

**Steffan** is taking 8 more IGCSEs, including Art. (He’s already passed RE and Maths). He needs to get more onto paper and increase his working speed in most of his exam areas.’

Please pray for all the staff and students involved in examinations over the coming months. It’s an important but stressful time for all.’

‘**Jonathan** had a good time at a recent Youth Fellowship camp. He felt God at work in his life. Please pray that God would continue His work in Jonathan’s life and the many others who responded.

**Owen and Tracy** continue to enjoy their work. Pray that they would be an encouragement and blessing to many.

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After a wonderful holiday in Borneo over Christmas, and attending a CMS conference in Nepal, where they enjoyed the cold(!), the **Lee family** write of being ‘back into the jungle of Manila! Jeepneys (a popular form of public transport within Manila), noise, heat, smog, kids’

But, they write – ‘we were ready for it after our break and actually missed it. Jigsaw as usual had a busy start to the year. Two new buildings were rented and renovated to turn them into community centres and now the Batasan area, after having our last centre bulldozed, has a new community centre and Visayas Avenue now has a building ready to begin the literacy project. This year our focus for Jigsaw (the work they do amongst street children and families) is not on growing but on strengthening what we have and so we are looking for ways to strengthen our kids’ work, our organisation, our staff and our spiritual lives. It’s not an easy task as the first step is strengthening us as a couple and a family. We have experienced so much attack spiritually and physically that often we feel like giving up but, as always, God is amazing at giving us encouragement just when we need it. Please pray for Jigsaw this year, that God will give us wisdom to focus on the areas which really need strengthening and give us perseverance in the times that are hard.’

‘Of their three children, they write – ‘**Rebekah** has started gymnastics which she loves. The only problem is that she never stops cart-wheeling everywhere! **James** is doing great at football, or soccer as they call it here. Let’s hope that he succeeds big time and gives his parents a bountiful retirement plan (*only joking but it would be nice*). **Grace** is quite a madam but a gorgeous one. She is now in the parrot phase of repeating everything you say so we have to be careful what we say. She has mastered the art of the toilet, which is great, but not yet mastered the art of being content without a dummy – next battle!’

Tim came on a brief visit to the UK in March to see his father who has been diagnosed as having bowel cancer. Due to his dementia the doctors have decided not to intervene medically as Tim’s father did not want any treatment. So, the family are faced with the decision of whether to come home and for how long. They now plan to come home mid-June for a couple of months – possibly longer depending on the situation with Tim’s father. They plan to visit us on July 6<sup>th</sup> which is also the day on which Pete & Liz are planning another trains-in-the-garden event. Great!!!

Cecilia Wilding

## **Holiday Club**

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This year's Holiday Club 'Pyramid Rock' followed the story of Joseph from Genesis chapters 37 - 50, and helped us to discover some aspects of God's character. As in previous years the children enjoyed games, crafts and songs that fitted with the theme, as well as learning directly from the Bible through DVD clips, drama, activity books and discussion in small groups.

Despite the Club necessarily being arranged during the only full week of the Easter school holidays, more than 50 children signed up for one or more sessions, with at least half of those attending every day. All of the local first schools were represented, as well as Christ Church Middle School, but this year there was a preponderance of pupils from Oulton First School, partly due to a timely notice being given at the school's Easter service where many parents were present. The Holiday Club service on the Sunday morning was well attended, even though the change of clocks made it a rather early start – the lure of bacon and sausages at the breakfast afterwards clearly did the trick!

Holiday Club is always a team effort, and this year more than 30 adults, including several people from Oulton Church, were involved in one way or another. It was great to be able to experience and appreciate each person using their particular gifts in making the whole project work. Many thanks to all those who participated.

Sue Kingman

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## **Explorers**

The Explorers Sunday Group has lost several of the older members to Pathfinders in the past twelve months. The children remaining tend towards the younger age group so the approach and method of teaching has changed a little. There is a regular core of around eight children with numbers getting up to as many as twelve when they are all there.

There have been a few changes in leaders with several leaving but John Butterworth and Liz Mason have come on board, thank you to them for all that they do. Thanks also to those who have helped out as assistants, your input is very welcome. Any one else who would like to go on the assistants rota would be very welcome.

Estella Woodhead

## Licensed woman

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'Let's start at the very beginning, a very good place to start' sang Julie Andrews the singing nun to the children in the Sound of Music. The start for me came towards the end of our time at college when we were presented with a huge folder of vacancies. We were to visit a number of parishes and pray for guidance to select the right one.

After four years training, I was ready for my parish in Dagenham, Essex. But first I needed to be licensed. Licensed! I thought only people who became landlords or landladies of a pub were licensed.

So along with other parish workers I was licensed in Chelmsford Cathedral. It was a moving service particularly when I knelt before the Bishop. 'John, by divine Providence, Lord Bishop of Chelmsford, to our beloved in Christ, Ann, greeting....'. ..and I knew whatever lay ahead I had the assurance that 'He who calls you is faithful and he will do it'.

I worked in a busy parish with wonderful colleagues and shared the joys, sorrows, problems and disappointments of an active ministry. I enjoyed putting out my own rubbish in my own bin, doing my own shopping, meeting people in the street, having my own front door and lots more. There have been so many memorable moments since those early years -some amusing. By now I was a deaconess in my home parish in the Potteries when I was asked to be chaplain to the Bishop at our confirmation service. As I walked in procession clutching the pastoral staff I was quite amused to see a member of our congregation grinning at me from ear to ear. I then thought I heard a whisper which sounded like 'shepherdess'. A licensed 'Bo Peep' perhaps!

Many pearls of wisdom have been passed on to me. One pearl I will never forget came from a vicar's wife 'bloom where you are planted'. Not bad advice for a now, retired licensed woman.

Ann Butler

## 50 days of Easter

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A few weeks ago we were observing Lent as a time for giving up things in order to make space for God. It is a good thing to do each year. Our lives are too cluttered. God has to break through our busyness to reach us. It is strange that we put so much effort into the forty days of Lent but so little effort into the fifty days of the season of Easter. Yet during this month of April we are invited not only to feast and to celebrate, but to be transformed. We are challenged not just to remember the events of Easter, but to be transformed by them. As Augustine put it, 'We are an Easter people and "Alleluia" is our song'.

Augustine reminds us that resurrection is not just a doctrine which we affirm in the creeds each week, but a reality to be lived each day. It requires as much effort, imagination and practice as does the observance of Lent. As St Paul put it, 'If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on things that are on the earth'. Perspectives and aspirations need to re-focus.

In the lead up to the Lambeth Conference journalists are already sharpening their pencils with glee at the thought that there may be some public show of disagreement over human sexuality. It is as if the only thing that Christians are interested in is condemning others' behaviour. Yet the strange thing is that the hallmark of the first Christians was the explosion of love and practical care that was detonated as a result of Jesus Christ's death and resurrection. Their extraordinary displays of generous love and care – not just for their own people, but for everyone – confounded their critics and spoke powerfully of the presence of a loving, forgiving God. This tidal wave of resurrection love swamped the misunderstanding and hatred of so many people and swept them back irresistibly to God.

So how might we be an Easter people this year? How might we 'live the resurrection'? Well, how about looking out for an opportunity to bring about some resurrection each day, either at home, work or leisure? It might be through some hidden act of generosity or kindness, or of practising the discipline of thanksgiving for someone or some situation that you find difficult. It might be by campaigning for a better world. Above all, the hallmark of 'living the resurrection' is joy. So this month let's be an Easter people and let 'Alleluia' be our song'.

Alan Smith, Bishop of Shrewsbury

## (Website of the Month)

You have to look at this website. It is, in its own words,  
“The world’s largest, most comprehensive illustrated Bible”. It is

### THE LEGO BIBLE

At the end of March 2008, the Brick Testament added its 350th illustrated story, a Psalm of King David (actually, 2 Samuel 22:1-51). This includes a picture of the hordes of Sheol (skeletons) trying to drag David down to the Underworld.

The website is the work of The Rev. Brendan Powell Smith and has been created entirely using genuine Lego bricks and characters. The website was launched in 2001 and books were first published in 2003. There are now more than 3600 colour photographs of Lego model bible scenes.

The books have been translated into German, Japanese, Korean, Swedish, Danish and Hungarian. Quotations are mainly from the Jerusalem Bible, with a few translations suggested by learned colleagues. Where words are not quoted directly from the Jerusalem Bible, they are however printed in grey.

In the Brick Testament, you can read about Creation, David and Goliath, the parables of Jesus, the Acts of the Apostles and even some of the Epistles. Be warned, however, that the Bible contains Nudity, Violence, Sex and Cursing and the Lego Bible is no different.

It’s true that Lego people don’t have very good facial expressions and some quite serious incidents (such as beheading) don’t seem to upset them very much. This does detract from the impact of the message. On the other hand, where else can you see the plague of locusts or the miracles of Jesus?

The Brick Testament is not connected with the company that makes Lego. A pity really - a Lego “Battles of the Old Testament” set might sell quite well.

Dave Bell

## Cracked Pots

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The story is told of a water bearer in India who had two large pots. They hung on each end of a pole which he carried across his neck, but one of the pots had a crack in it. While the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water at the end of the long walk from the stream to the master's house, the cracked pot arrived only half full. For two years this went on daily, with the bearer delivering only one and a half pots of water to his master's house.

Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments, perfect to the end for which it was made. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it was able to accomplish only half of what it had been made to do.

After two years of what it perceived to be a bitter failure, it spoke to the water bearer one day by the stream. "I am ashamed of myself, and I want to apologize to you."

"Why?" asked the bearer. "What are you ashamed of?"

"I have been able, for these past two years, to deliver only half my load because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your master's house. Because of my flaws, you have to do all of this work, and you don't get full value from your efforts," the pot said.

In his compassion, the water bearer said, "As we return to the master's house, I want you to notice the beautiful flowers along the path." Indeed, as they went up the hill, the old cracked pot took notice of the sun warming the beautiful wild flowers on the side of the path, and this cheered it some. But at the end of the trail, it still felt bad because it had leaked out half its load, and so again it apologized to the bearer for its failure.

The bearer said to the pot, "Did you notice that there were flowers only on your side of your path, but not on the other pot's side? That's because I have always known about your flaw, and I took advantage of it. I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back from the stream, you've watered them. For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate my master's table. Without you being just the way you are, he would not have this beauty to grace his house."

It is an amazing thing (but true) that God is able to accomplish some wonderful things through our efforts, in spite of our imperfections. Paul said of his role as a preacher of the gospel: *(continued on next page)*

## **Cracked Pots** *(continued)*

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"But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us." (2 Cor. 4:7).

Though we may often feel inadequate and useless, if we will continue about the task that God has given us, we will produce fruit and influence lives in ways we may not even be aware of.

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." (I Cor. 15:58).

May our lives "abound" this day in the work of the Lord! Though we may feel like a "cracked pot", our efforts are not in vain.

From Mike Thompson

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## **Youth Groups at Christ Church**

Cornerstone is the group for Christian teenagers and meets Monday evenings at Tim and Caroline's house. We play games, eat food, study the Bible and pray together. There are nine who come regularly, of whom five are connected with either Christ Church or Oulton. Since September we have done a Bible overview (based on the course *The World We All Want*) and looked at the 'marks' of the Church from Acts 2:42, as well as miscellaneous and seasonal topics. Please keep Cornerstone in your prayers, because the devil and the world will do anything to prevent young people being passionate about Jesus and God's glory.

Christ Church Youth Club meets on Tuesday nights and is for young people (14-18 years old). There are over 60 on our membership list, and on a typical night we can have anything from 30-40 present. Very few of these have any other connection with God's church. Our primary desire is that these young people discover Jesus Christ and become committed disciples. To this end we provide a safe place for young people to relax, to chat with our team of 9 leaders, and each week have a 'Jesus talk' in which the gospel is proclaimed. Recently we started an informal discussion group starting 30 minutes before Youth Club starts, in the hope of giving those who are interested further space to ask their questions. Any church member who wants to see what we are doing, and meet these great young people, is welcome to come along - do talk to Dave Rowlands or myself.

**Tim Vasby-Burnie**

## ROADS FOR PRAYER

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### 4th May

The Avenue  
Trent Road  
Tunley Street  
Trinity Drive

### 11th May

Airdale Grove  
Airdale Road  
Airdale Spinney  
Cross Street



### 18th May

Nicholls Lane  
Old Road  
Old Road Close  
Oulton Cross  
Lotus Court

### 25th May

Oulton Road  
Oulton Mews  
Princes Street  
Queens Square  
York Street

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## Christian Aid Week:- May 11-17

Can you help with door to door collection for Christian Aid, either in our parish or in your own area?

Christian Aid funds long term development work, responds to emergencies and challenges the unjust systems that make and keep people poor.

Christian Aid works through more than 600 partners in more than 50 countries helping people of all faiths and none to find their own lasting solutions to poverty.

Christian Aid doesn't give money to governments; they work directly with organizations on the ground.

For each £1 given last year 84p was used for direct charity expenditure, the remaining 16p was used to raise the next £1.

If you can help with envelope delivery and collection or would like to know more please speak to Phil Tunstall. T 817028

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### Christ Church on the Internet

Parish website      [www.churches.lichfield.anglican.org/stone/stonecc](http://www.churches.lichfield.anglican.org/stone/stonecc)

Parish office email      [christchurch.centre1@btinternet.com](mailto:christchurch.centre1@btinternet.com)

Magazine contributions      [christchurch\\_mag@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:christchurch_mag@yahoo.co.uk)

# FROM THE REGISTERS

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## WEDDING

12th April Mark Vasby-Burnie and Katherine Munroe

## FUNERALS

19th March Ethel Gertrude Smith

## SIDESPERSIONS ROTA

AM

4th May A. West. D. Davies  
V. Ledward, T. MacFarlane

11th May I. Gassor, A.Greer  
D. Wilson, J. Rowlands

18th May B.Hutchinson, M.Hutchinson  
G. Holden, J. Abrahams

25th May P. Hipkiss, T. MacFarlane  
A. West, D. Davies

## FLOWER ROTA

4th May Miss C. Wilding  
11th May Mrs M. Hutchinson  
18th May Mrs G. Martin  
25th May Mrs B. Thornicroft



## Thank You from the Flower Guild

Thank you to the members of the Flower Guild who worked so hard decorating the church for our ~Easter services and to everyone who made contributions to the cost of the Easter Flowers.

Marylyn Hillman

<b>Deanery Synod Reps</b>	Mrs S Hallam, Mr I Hawley, Mr D. Rowlands
<b>P.C.C. Members</b>	Mrs I Gassor, Mrs M Hillman, Mrs E Mason, Mr P Mason Mrs D Wilson, Mrs E Woodhead, Mrs J. Rowlands Mrs S. Morray, Mrs J. Abrahams, Mr K. Reynolds Mr A. Stone, Mr G. Holden, Mrs A. Greer
<b>Secretary</b>	Jacqueline Abrahams.....817020
<b>Treasurer</b>	Kevin Reynolds.....851595
<b>Envelopes, Gift Aid</b>	Nesta Challinor

## GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

<b>Climbers 3-7 years</b>	Sandra Morray.....286093
<b>Explorers 7-11 years</b>	Estella Woodhead.....761659
<b>Pathfinders 11-14 years</b>	Enid Bell.....815775
<b>Banner Group</b>	Jeanette Rowlands.....816713
<b>Church Missionary Boxes</b>	Cecilia Wilding.....817987
<b>Flower Guild</b>	Marylyn Hillman.....815936
<b>Men's Fellowship</b>	Mike Thompson.....813712
<b>Missions Secretary</b>	Cecilia Wilding.....817987
<b>Prayer Group</b>	Jeanette Rowlands.....816713
<b>Parents &amp; Toddlers</b> (Mon 9.30 – 11.15am)	Sandra Morray.....286093
<b>Friday "Little Fishes"</b> (Fri 11am – 1.30pm)	Cecilia Wilding.....817987

**Young People's Activities** take place in the Centre during the Sunday morning service except on the fourth Sunday in the month, which is the family service.

**Climbers** 3-7 years      **Explorers** 7-11 years      **Pathfinders** 11-14 years

The following activities take place every week in the Centre during term time.

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

## THE MAGAZINE TEAM

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

**Please send material for the magazine to**

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

# Christ Church welcomes you!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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## Subscriptions

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