

Christ Church and People

Parish Magazine of
Christ Church Stone

40p



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 inside back page for details)

THE PARISH TEAM

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Wardens	Phil Tunstall David Rowlands	817028 816713
Deputy Wardens	Andy Stone, Arthur Foulkes, Tim Saxton	

CHRIST CHURCH CENTRE

Booking Secretary	Kate or Irene	(Office)	811990
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CHURCH SCHOOLS

Christ Church C.E.(Controlled) First School, Northesk Street. Head: Mrs Lynne Croxall B.Ed.(Hons)	354125
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 December magazine to us by 15th Nov.

Cover Story:- Granville Square with the war memorial

November 2009

Sun	1	9:15am 6:00pm	Communion. Matthew 25:14-30 "Mission without fear" Community of Faith. Study 3
Mon	2	7:00pm 7:30pm	Cornerstone Standing Committee
Tue	3	9:30am 10:00am 12:30pm 3:45pm 7:30pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before midweek service. Service at 10:30am Seekers Club Lighthouse Club years 3-5 Christ Church Youth Club years 12-13
Wed	4		
Thu	5	1:20pm 7:00pm	Christ Church Middle School assembly The Rock Youth Club years 9-11
Fri	6	6:30pm	Breathe years 6-8
Sat	7	8:30am	Prayer meeting followed by breakfast
Sun	8	9:15am 4:00pm 6:00pm	Remembrance Sunday Morning Prayer. Philippians 2:14-30 "Mission involves sacrifice" Service for Bereaved Community of Faith. Study 4
Mon	9	7:00pm 7:30pm	Cornerstone Deanery Synod
Tue	10	9:30am 10:00am 12:30pm 3:45pm 7:30pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before midweek service. Service at 10:30am Seekers Club Lighthouse Club years 3-5 Christ Church Youth Club years 12-13
Wed	11		
Thu	12	1:20pm 7:00pm	Christ Church Middle School assembly The Rock Youth Club years 9-11
Fri	13	6:30pm	Breathe years 6-8
Sat	14		

Numbers after clubs refer to school years, not ages.

November 2009

Sun	15	9:15am 6:00pm	Communion Habakkuk 1:1-2:1 "Why? Holding on to God" Community of Faith study 5
Mon	16	7:00pm	Cornerstone
Tue	17	9:30am 10:00am 12:30pm 1:00pm 3:45pm 7:30pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before midweek service. Service at 10:30am Seekers Club Fraternal Lighthouse Club years 3-5 Christ Church Youth Club years 12-13
Wed	18	7:30pm	PCC meeting
Thu	19	1:20pm 7:00pm	Christ Church Middle School assembly Rock Youth Club years 9-11
Fri	20	6:30pm	Breathe years 6-8
Sat	21		
Sun	22	9:15am 6:00pm	Family Service Habakkuk 2:1-5 "Wait. Awaiting God's timing" Community of Faith study 6
Mon	23	7:00pm 7:00pm	Cornerstone Deanery Chapter
Tue	24	9:30am 10:00am 12:30pm 3:45pm 7:30pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before midweek service. Service at 10:30am Seekers Club Lighthouse Club years 3-5 Christ Church Youth Club years 12-13
Wed	25		
Thu	26	1:20pm 7:00pm	Christ Church Middle School assembly Rock Youth Club years 9-11
Fri	27	6:30pm	Breathe years 6-8
Sat	28	2:00pm	Oulton Christmas Fayre
Sun	29	9:15am 6:00pm	Morning Prayer Habakkuk 2:6-20 "Woe! Judgement is real." Informal service Luke 1:1-25 "He came in history"
Mon	30	7:00pm	Cornerstone

Clearing the debt

We thought that the MP's expenses fiasco had long since died down. But, all of a sudden, it reappeared as a new parliamentary season started up. 'The atmosphere at Westminster is a mixture of fear, anxiety, anger and dismay' as one newspaper article put it. News reports polarised into recording the calm resignation of those who accepted their 'no win' position and also the blistering attacks on the 'unreasonable' demand for the repayment of expenses, now considered as debts. The controversy was heightened by the retrospective analysis: the rules had changed on what had been previously signed off as a legitimate expenses claim.

The problem of debt is a heavy burden to shoulder. It is this idea that is used as an analogy in Christian thought to help us to understand the problem we have before God and the enormity of his generosity so that we can have our name cleared. The idea of debt was brought to the attention of Jesus' followers by the apostle Paul. He does this in order to explain how Jesus alone can deal with the spiritual debt we all carry. Putting it bluntly, he reminds the Christians in Colossae that they were effectively dead in the water due to their huge weight of debt: *'And you, who were dead in your trespasses... God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by cancelling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demand. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross'* (Colossians 2v13-14).

It's sheer foolishness to think that our good deeds may one day outweigh our bad deeds. It's firstly simply not true, as we do not honour God as we should - we fail to obey the command to love the Lord our God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength and also to love our neighbours as ourselves. It's secondly not the way we can get right with God. How can we possibly deal with the enormity of the problem that cuts us off from God by ourselves? The verse shows that it is only by trusting in the unique work of Jesus Christ, who suffered and died for our forgiveness, that this debt can be cancelled. God's rules have not suddenly been revised or applied retrospectively. His justice is perfect. His grace is amazing. His invitation to have our debts cancelled still holds good.

I hope that this is your conviction and delight.

Paul Kingman



The Gospel in Creation (5) – Fire

November makes us think of bonfires, so this month: how does fire proclaim the good news of Jesus?

God's presence is often associated with fire – just think of Moses' encounter with the (non-)burning bush. Fire represents the burning purity and holiness of God. “Let us worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire” writes the author of Hebrews (12:28). Fire tells us that God is not tame, he is not soft. In the story of Adam and Eve's expulsion from the Garden of Eden, they are prevented from returning by cherubim with flaming swords.

So here's the problem: how can we return to God without the fire of his holiness consuming us?

In Daniel 7 we have a vision of God seated on his throne with a river of fire flowing out from before him. But then one “like a son of man” approached God and is led into God's presence. This man passes through the fire, yet survives.

Jesus is this “son of man”. On the cross he passes through the fiery judgement against sin and evil. *Our* sin and evil. Through his death those who follow him can approach God with confidence and joy, knowing the fire of his judgement will not burn them.

I'm told that in areas of expansive grassland (the prairies, for example) a burning fire can sweep across very rapidly. There is no way to outrun it. But those who live on the land know how to be safe. With the fire bearing down on them, they bend down and start *another fire* on the ground. This new fire burns up the grass downwind. Standing on the burnt grass the people are safe, because when the original fire arrives it will pass by on either side; it will not burn where fire has already gone.

Jesus experienced the fiery judgement and coming to him means we stand in safety. The fire will not burn again here. Incidentally, this is why the idea of purgatory is so profoundly wrong: a follower of Jesus has had *all* their sin dealt with. Jesus took it all. He has entered God's presence for me and God gives me full access on his account.

So tell your children to be careful around fire. And tell them that Jesus is the true place of safety.

Tim Vasby-Burnie

<http://vasbyburnie.net>

Everybody Welcome

Removal firms have been calling; rooms and furniture have been measured. We're getting ready to move from Devon to Shropshire.

In recent years, I have met a few Christians who, having moved home, stop going to church. Busy getting the new house in order and keeping up with the friends and family they have left behind, the new residents simply drop out of the habit. They don't ever make it to their new local church.

One of them I discovered had served as the church Treasurer for over 15 years in the last parish. He and his wife had decided to have a rest in the new; they enjoyed it so much that they kept their heads down hoping no one would notice. No one did for several years. Then, one autumn the new Vicar encouraged the church family to greet neighbours they hadn't met properly. The former Treasurer and his wife were invited to the Harvest Supper which was preceded by Harvest Evensong. They went, were made to feel very welcome and became part of the Christian community again. They were glad to have been asked. They had realised something was missing from their lives but had felt awkward about making the step back into active worship and service. So they didn't, until they were invited.

Equally, I have come across others who, though not practising Christians, move house and want to start afresh. They think this might be just the right time to visit the local church, get to know people in the community and 'give God a go'. But it's hard to cross the church threshold when you haven't done it for ages (or never at all), when you are worried about local customs and feeling like an alien. We often need encouragement to try something new – and to know we will be welcome.

Back To Church Sunday and Harvest-tide gives the local church family the perfect opportunity to welcome back and welcome afresh those new to our communities. Of course, some are natural at welcoming, others are challenged in this area.

(continued on next page)

I'll not forget the Churchwarden who came up to the vestry just before the start of the service on my second Sunday as Vicar to tell me: 'Mark, there's a stranger in church!' Nor the time I had invited a friend, a local parish councillor, together with his young family to church. In the past he had been an active participant but, following an argument and rift, had left. On this occasion, his first Sunday back for several years, he was greeted by the Sidesman at the door with the words: 'Hello stranger!' I could have chinned him (the sidesman, that is). A church's welcome can be let down by one remark.

I am currently reading 'Everybody Welcome' written by Lichfield's very own Bob Jackson and George Fisher. Full of useful ideas, it provides a step by step guide for enabling your church to become the welcoming, accepting, loving Body of Christ it is called to be. It recognises that 'true welcome comes from the whole community, not just a couple of specialists.' This course is not just about welcoming everybody but about everybody in church learning to be welcoming. It looks superb and I hope it will be widely used.

The course, however, will be no easy ride because it reminds us of our high calling – to reflect God's nature and be beacons of his Kingdom. When people meet the local church, will they meet the living God?

At the heart of a warm welcome is an attentiveness to others. One of the attractive things about Jesus is the way he noticed individuals – the little man up the sycamore tree, the despised tax collector in his stall, the sick woman who touched his cloak in a crowd. Not only did he notice them but he made them feel that they really mattered. He counted them in and saw, not the problem, but the potential. Matthew, Peter and Mary Magdalene all came with their issues but Jesus was able to see what they could become. A church like that would be so attractive – worth joining, even.

Mandy, Fran, Sam and I are looking forward to moving to Shropshire and becoming part of God's family in Lichfield Diocese. Thank you for the kind cards and messages that have already made us feel so welcome. Together with you, we hope to learn how to offer divine welcome to those searching for the way home.

Mark Rylands (Bishop-designate, Shrewsbury)

WI October meeting : Temporary Heroines

We were delighted to welcome 43 ladies to our October meeting with the intriguing title of 'Temporary Heroines'. The talk, by Kate Wain from Aston WI and a member of the Costume Society, gave a fascinating peep into how wedding dresses have changed.

Kate focused a little on Queen Victoria's wedding - a Honiton lace flounce, reputed to cost £1,000 adorned her 2 piece white satin dress. She had some value from this flounce wearing it in different forms to each of her children's weddings. As an aside, her wedding cake weighed 300lb and was 3 yards round!

By 1850 the crinoline had become fashionable but was rather short lived lasting only until the mid 1860's when dresses became flatter at the front and detailed at the back. The bustle (a 'shelf' tied round the waist at the back) became popular by 1887.

In the Edwardian age there was plenty of 'underpinning' to help one look trim and some dresses had hidden cushions to aid sleeves to 'puff'. The early 1900's saw softer simpler lines being introduced.

By 1912 dresses became slimmer with as little as 19" round the hem so you had to shuffle and the Queen Mother made the mop cap headdress popular. In the 1930's Walt Disney productions and the cinema influenced many dresses. During the war years many brides wore what they already had when their sweethearts were suddenly granted a 48 hr pass. In the 50's dresses were often adapted to evening dresses and in the 60's many dresses were influenced by Jean Muir, simple classical lines and then to the Laura Ashley era where our talk ended.

There are examples of the earlier dresses in the Newcastle under Lyme and Walsall Museums.

Our next meeting on 4 November at 2pm in the Centre will be taking a photographic holiday journey (destination yet to be decided). Why not come along and join us!

Jeanette Rowlands



A service for the bereaved

We hold a service once a year for those who have been bereaved. As part of our support of the bereaved we, as a church, keep in contact with families and hold a special service to which we specially invite those who have been bereaved during the last year. This year's service is on Sunday 8th November at 4.00 p.m. in Christ Church, Stone.

We aim to contact the families who we met as a result of arranging funerals of their relatives or friends. However, the service is open to others who would like to attend, as we recognise that grief is something that we live with for a long while.

If you intend to come then it is helpful to contact the Benefice office with some details so that your loved one can be remembered during the service.

Paul Kingman.

Sermons in November

Mornings at Christ Church and Oulton: the prophet Habbakuk holds out a divinely given vision that helps us to live at peace in our troubled world. The prophet spoke at a time when the Babylonians were coming – the imperialist grab-all that is savage and yet will be used to serve God's greater purpose. We meet the God of providence and learn the key lesson that 'the Righteous shall live by Faith' rather than by sight.

Moddershall: we continue the series in Mark's Gospel as we look for 'Seeds of Faith' to germinate as we encounter Jesus Christ in his words and deeds. This will be followed by the series 'A Timely Word' to lead into Christmas.

Evening services: after a brief course on how we live as a community of faith we will resume services in Advent under the title 'A Timely Word' – Luke's record of the promised coming of the Messiah which calls forth the response Hallelujah!

Paul Kingman.

Getting the message out

(An extract from Andrew Butterworth's Newsletter)

'So what are you doing out here?' the fellow Brit asked me. 'I am working with an agency that helps relieve poverty in a former township.' I replied 'So like what? crafts and stuff?' he went on rather disdainfully. I politely explained that development is a bit broader than that and that Oasis did a number of things: it loans money to start up new businesses; trains school leavers in how to write CVs and gives them mock interviews (with business men and women that volunteer with us); teaches IT skills; and trains pre-primary school teachers to set up their own nurseries. When you add on that we are the only antenatal and primary care clinic in the area; that we oversee twenty community health care workers; and also coordinate cooperation with all the church leaders in the area, as I was saying it all it made me realise how much we do. The Brit I had just met also seemed quite impressed. It turns out his sister is out in Cape Town and does the craft stuff and while it seems very worthy he doesn't think it is that effective, which seems to be a common perception of Christian-based charity work

Bridging the FBO-NGO divide

Traditionally the UN has acknowledged FBOs (faith-based organisations) but mainly partnered with secular NGOs (Non-Governmental Organisations). However there seems to be good news when it comes to HIV as the UN seems to be changing, acknowledging that this pandemic is too big to deal in their current way and all their most recent reports mention the importance of partnering with FBOs in the future. So I was thrilled to meet a guy from a UN agency a few weeks back who is advising the SA government on development. He seemed very interested in Oasis and has asked to come and visit Cosmo city. Partnership seems to be crucial if we are ever to work at a scale that will impact the epidemic, and so this trip could be quite important.

HIV & Oasis

We have started to implement the findings from my report and have applied for funding to do an integrated HIV prevention project in Cosmo. It looks really exciting with us applying to do a number of projects concurrently and partnering with the local government, churches, and hopefully, the private sector. *(continued on page 11)*

As far as I am aware the integrated approach that we are proposing hasn't been done before and because Oasis collects HIV incidence data (through our ante-natal clinic) we will also have the means to measure whether interventions will actually reduce the number of people getting HIV - although I predict it will probably be a few years before our interventions are reflected in our incidence data so it will be a big undertaking

GodFirst Church

Things are still going well with my other half of my work out here. The church is gearing up to start a few new congregations in the New Year and we are increasingly being asked to help other churches to be effective in their communities.

Thanks for listening. I really appreciate all your support and interest. Please would you pray for our bid for funding for an integrated HIV prevention project to be successful; for Kevin, the Oasis boss who is grounded in Zimbabwe to pass his 'interview' (to get permission to leave the country) and for strong links to form with ourselves and the UN.

Thanks,

Andrew

Manila Typhoon and Jigsaw

Tim & Kate Lee are our CMS Link partners. They have been working amongst street children and families in Manila, Philippines, establishing Jigsaw Kids Ministries. They are now based in the UK but still very much involved in Jigsaw via Skype and Tim visiting three times a year. In an e-mail from Tim the Monday after the typhoon which hit Manila on 23/24 October Tim wrote:

I arrived back safely last Thursday from an amazing two and half weeks of work at Jigsaw Philippines. Unfortunately since then a disaster of huge proportions is unfolding in Manila and specifically in three of the areas where Jigsaw has centres.

To outline the situation briefly, Manila was hit by a huge tropical cyclone on Friday night/ Saturday day. A combination of a number of events subjected almost all of Manila to extreme flooding. Up to 3 to 10 feet of mud and water in many, many areas.

(continued on next page)

Manila Typhoon and Jigsaw *(continued)*

Apparently huge seas from the west of the city combined with the complete failing of the emergency city pumping systems, huge rainfall and then the bursting of one of Manila's big dams in the hills surrounding Manila producing extreme flooding. Deforestation worsened the problem as many were hit by mud slides bringing major destruction to those on the edge of Manila.

This morning I was able to Skype with Jolly the manager of jigsaw Philippines and it is the most serious of situations.

So what is Jigsaw doing? Well earlier this morning I had a Skype meeting with all the staff and it was decided that,

- a. Although the conditions are very harsh and kids clubs can't continue in some places the staff want to try as much as possible to provide some kids clubs if they can in both Area 4 and Visayas, stating that, 'the kids are so distraught we would like if we can to provide even a small place for some play, snacks and sleep and chance for the children to share their experiences.'
- b. Mostly what is needed is food, clothes and shelter so as an emergency intervention Jigsaw has scheduled feeding for 500 children in Visayas and Area 4 (1000 children) every day for the next two weeks (*sufficient money has come in since to extend the feeding programme beyond two weeks*)
- c. Jigsaw are offering their centres as places for families, children who have lost everything to stay, (a major problem is that there are too many for us to cope with, so we are trying to allocate space related to the most needy, this of course will bring problems.)
- d. Jigsaw are offering their two vans to be part of a local government and NGO response, (to help deliver food and clothing to area 4 and other badly affected areas.)

More details of situations in the four areas where Jigsaw works

Area 4, a squatter area where Jigsaw works and has a family centre is located close by to a river (as often squatter areas are) and on Friday night was flooded by torrenting flood water. Much of the area is now completely destroyed and covered in thick mud; Jeanette our social worker has just described to me the horrific events there. The water rose so fast she said and people were terrified that they would be trapped. They were rescued on floating wood pallets and anything else they could find; casualties are still being assessed she said.

Right now the water is receding but the whole place is knee deep in mud; the only place fully standing she said is the Jigsaw centre where a number of families who have completely lost everything are sleeping. "They have nothing now" Jeanette said, "everything was either swept away or flood damaged".

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Manila Typhoon and Jigsaw *(continued)*

The kids worker's houses are all damaged but not destroyed as they had built with concrete, but the majority of houses built of wood and garbage are all gone. People are disorientated, homeless and hungry, Jeanette shared.

Batasan is least hit as it on the top of a hill and the place furthest from a river, but there is storm damage. The Jigsaw centre is ok and this is the only place we will continue full kids club schedule this week.

Visayas is horrifically hit with children just crying in our centre. Jigsaw's manager Jolly and his family had to move to the Jigsaw centre when the flooding hit their house, "the water was up to my chest," Jolly said! They were joined by most of our staff and many street kids - who our now taking refuge there. Three of our sponsored children's families have lost everything and are sleeping in a gas station forecourt, they are all devastated. Jolly, Jeanette and others said these two areas are now so highly tense, people have nowhere to live, nothing to eat, there is no drinking water and little chance of getting medical help.

Angeles, our Angeles centre is located more than an hour from Manila and although there was heavy rain and winds it did not experience the same flooding as Manila.

For me I am devastated I saw two wonderful children who I know so well in our centre this morning on Skype. Just 4 days ago I was talking with them and laughing and playing, but today I saw them wailing in tears as everything their families had - is now gone, their homes, possessions, school uniforms, cookers clothes, everything. Please pray.

A few days later Tim & Kate e-mailed us:

People affected by the typhoon are slowly recovering tiny bits of their lives, picking up pieces of what are left from their property and building very temporary shelter. There were lots of dead bodies recovered in area 4 by the river banks, some from here but most of them are from other places that were carried by heavy current of water.

The lunch that we serve them brought a life line. The number of children doubled and we couldn't restrict only to children as the adults were desperate too. Children have their own horrifying stories about the typhoon and how they survived. Life is very, very fragile and desperate here and people are very scared that a new even stronger *typhoon* is about to hit Manila.

Tim and Kate praise God for the money that has poured in for Jigsaw's relief effort, (including our's) and for the Jigsaw staff who are doing amazing work feeding and giving shelter to the many, many children and families who have lost everything.

Please PRAY – the needs go on. Look in the prayer insert for Lee family news

The PCC met on Wednesday 18 September 2009 and the following matters were reported on, discussed and/or decided.

- We are still seeking an additional person to be one of our representatives on the Deanery Synod. Anyone interested in taking on this role should speak with either Shirley Hallam or Dave Rowlands.
- It is likely that we will be renovating the current churchyard pathway that takes you from the back of church through to Bromfield Court. This could see the creation of a working party of willing volunteers. If you are interested, please speak to Phil Tunstall.
- Our finance literature has been updated to create a leaflet about giving in general and another one specifically about our Youth Ministry. These were distributed to church members during September. Additional copies are available for anyone who did not receive a personally addressed set. If they are not immediately visible within the church, please speak to a sidesperson or one of the wardens.
- Passion for Life is a national initiative that will be taking place in March 2010 to develop and enhance our mission. In North Staffordshire there will be a programme of events over a 2 to 3 week period. The Vicar asked that we think of lifestyle and possible mission events for this programme.
- Our Autumn course will also have a mission theme and will focus on how our lifestyle can be used to enhance our mission. The course will take place on Sunday evenings from 6pm for 7 weeks beginning on 4 October and concluding on 22 November. There will not be a course on 25 October as the confirmation service will take place on this evening.
- The new website went live on 15 September. More content is planned for the future. The address is www.christchurchstone.org Anyone wanting to publish any information on the website should speak with Tim Vasby-Burnie or Andy Stone.
- Due to the increasing numbers of young people attending the Tuesday evening youth club, another club is to be started. This new club will be aimed at years 9, 10 and 11 (ages 13 to 16). If you are interested in helping out with any of our work with children and young people please speak to Adam Rushton.

The next PCC meeting is on Wednesday 18 November 2009 at 7.30pm.

The Staffordshire Hoard

On 8 October, two weeks after the exhibition opened and four days before it closed, we drove down to Birmingham and joined the end of what looked like a long queue outside Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery in Chamberlain Square. There were a number of staff circulating in order to keep us informed about what was happening, how long we could be waiting (approximately three and a half hours in our case), where the toilets were and also where light refreshments were available.

Apart from chatting to those around you in the queue and drinking hot drinks we were entertained by an authentic looking Saxon warrior in what is believed to be the standard dress for a soldier of the eighth century AD. His clothes and light armour were, he explained, based mainly on the Sutton Hoo burial find but responded to our questions and identified which parts of his helmet, dagger and sword were similar to objects in the Staffordshire Hoard. This he said dwarfed both Sutton Hoo and any other Saxon treasure found here or on the continent.

After approximately an hour outside and a further hour queuing inside the museum we found ourselves at the entrance to the exhibition. Inside a large room were five glass display cases in each of which were between ten and twenty gold items none larger than a hand but mostly smaller than a finger. All were labelled but mostly they were 'use unknown' which is not surprising considering that it was only discovered in July in a field near Lichfield and the archaeological dig was not completed until 21 August 2009. There were 1500 artefacts discovered in total, mostly gold but some silver and bronze and some inlaid with garnets.

It took us about an hour to work our way around the display cases because of course everyone has to move at the pace of the slowest but it was good not to have to hurry when you have queued for a long time. The quality of the workmanship and archaeological importance of the objects in the find is astonishing. We were both impressed and felt that the journey had been well worth it.

After 13 October the whole of the hoard is transferred to the British Museum where it will be cleaned, dated and valued in order to reward the finder and the owner of the property on which it was found.

As a postscript we have just heard on the midlands TV News that with four days left to go over 40,000 people have enjoyed the spectacle so it is probably the most popular exhibition that the Museum has ever held.

Margaret and Barry Hutchinson.

SPARE, SHARE or BECAUSE YOU CARE

During the summer I introduced Adam, Helen-Clare & Eden to the Roaches, where we enjoyed a pleasant walk to Lud's Church near Gradbach. It's hard when you are surrounded by the beauty of nature not to talk about the wonder of God's creation, whether you are out with one of the Church ministry team or not!

Part of our talk centred on how we can help one another and I had remarked that a widowed neighbour of mine had mentioned that she wanted to clear out some unwanted furniture. Unbeknown to her, I knew of another neighbour who was in need of the said items of furniture. By mentioning this to her, I was able to help clear a space in one person's house and fill up space in another. Both households were very grateful and I went away, with aching limbs and a feeling of great satisfaction that comes when you have been able to help someone. If I hadn't mentioned the need of another, the furniture, considered past its best by its owner, would have ended up at the refuse tip.

I had the idea of a notice board that would enable members of the congregation to find new homes for objects like items of furniture, that they may be replacing, rather than throw them away. We may have already asked members of our own families if they wanted them, but we wouldn't go around the room asking anyone if they had need of a 2-seater sofa, whilst sipping tea after the Sunday service, would we?

Between us we thought of 4 sections for this notice board:

SPARE : items of furniture etc. that we would be willing to give for free, to a good home.

SHARE: items that we would be happy to let someone within the congregation borrow for a short time. For example; a trailer, a roof box or a hedge trimmer.

BECAUSE YOU CARE: maybe you could spare an hour or so occasionally to help someone with a job that they can't manage on their own.

REQUESTS FOR HELP: Is there anything that you need or do you have a problem that someone else may be able to help you to solve?

The notice boards will be out in the Church Centre, after the Sunday morning service each week and kept in the Office, if anyone needs them in between. If you want to fill out a card and pin it up in the relevant section, then either you or someone else may have their prayers answered. Thank you to those that have put up cards on the notice boards already. If you have any questions or want to know more then ask either myself, Adam or Helen-Clare.

Nick Scott

Dear Friends,

Once again we'd like to thank you for your prayers, support and general encouragement. Summer has gone and we are now getting cracking on the new church year's activities. We'll try our best to give you some good prayer fuel.

Cancer strikes our colleague John!

We were all shocked to hear recently that John has been struck by cancer. He has just been successfully operated upon, and is undertaking 16 daily sessions of radiotherapy. He has been advised that he has a 96% hope of permanently eradicating the cancer. His body will take 2 years to recover fully from the radiation „tiring“ effect. Please let's pray urgently that he will be healed and be able to carry on serving the lord.

Our financial situation, especially regarding the fall in the pound

Due to the bad exchange rates compared to the euro and the Croatian kuna, we effectively need an extra 500 pounds per month just to keep even. Thanks to the Lord and faithful giving of his people, we have enjoyed full missionary allowances since 2003. We don't take this for granted, but do inform you for prayer and, if God guides you, assistance.

Stephen on Deputation in UK March 2010

Some meetings have already been set up. If you would like me to visit your church or make a personal visit, please contact us. If March 5th – 15th doesn't suit, then maybe we can sort some other date out for later.

New Life in the church!

We are very encouraged with seeing God's hand at work in our midst! Over summer Nikolina arrived, newly converted from the coast and joined our church. Her effervescence of the Gospel radiated to her neighbour Roberto and they travel 20 miles to the church. Please pray for their wider families.

Preaching seminars 21-24 Nov

Lay preachers Davor, Ruben and maybe others will attend these seminars together with myself. Pray for the next generation!

(continued on next page)

The Youth 13 – 20 years old

Ivana, Karolina & Ela are all new. Ivana especially is really seeking God and has experienced His peace and joy. Pray as we start the new year that the 10 or so who come would be captivated by God and witness to their friends. Please pray for Tabita as she especially invests her imagination and time into them. Being with them is good fun, as well as a challenge!

The Older Children 8 – 12 year olds

For quite a while now we have noticed that the „not- quite- teenagers“ group have been missing out, so we decided to hold monthly meetings with the boys and their parents.

For the first time we used Benjamin's 9th birthday as an „excuse“ to gather together on a monthly basis. Pray these boys would know the joy of the Lord as they have lots of fun together. They are all in Tabita's Sunday School group and include our Joshy & Benjy.

Future Happenings

- Oct 6-9 Kosova. 6th-9th "Envisioning for the Kosovan and Albanian fields" Please pray for the teams as we meet soon. Primrose (R.of I.) & Dan USA, together with Gani & Adile (Kosova) and Thera (NL) would appreciate your prayers as they meet with field leader Berti (Albania), Arthur (UK) and myself.
- Dec 1-6 Visit to our Bosnian team in Novi Travnik and Serbian team in Zaječar with ECM's Stuart Rowell. It will be great working again with Stuart and his influence will greatly help me serve & care for the teams. Branko (Serbia) is recovering from a heart by-pass operation and Radovan (Bosnia) is recovering from cancer.

We leave you, asking you to continue praying for Milan's & Snježana's conversion.

So, much love :

Stephen, Tabita, Sheona, Joshua + Benjamin

ROADS FOR PRAYER

1st November

Northesk Street
Radford Close
Radford Street
Station Road

8th November

The Avenue
Trent Road
Tunley Street
Trinity Drive



15th November

Airdale Grove
Airdale Road
Airdale Spinney
Cross Street
Lotus Court

22nd November

Nicholls Lane
Old Road
Old Road Close
Oulton Cross

29th November

Oulton Road
Oulton Mews
Princes Street
Queen's Square
York Street

An unusual Christmas present

If you are looking for an unusual Christmas present I have just the answer for you. One of the many jobs I am doing is as a volunteer for Hope for a Child, a Christian charity helping Africa. They sponsor and train local people to help in their villages, firstly by arranging loans to set up businesses and secondly to look after children who have been orphaned when their parents died of AIDS. Instead of giving Christmas presents the charity is looking for people to give £20 to pay for one week's salary for a worker, or £40 for two weeks, or £80 for a month. What is excellent about this Christian charity is that it aims to get villagers to help themselves by giving a hand-up, not a handout. For more details contact John on john@jbutterworth.plus.com or 01785 817465 or go to the charity website www.hopeforachild.org.uk

John Butterworth

Christ Church on the Internet

Parish website	www.christchurchstone.org
Parish office email	christchurch.centre1@btinternet.com
Magazine contributions	christchurch_mag@yahoo.co.uk

FROM THE REGISTERS

WEDDING

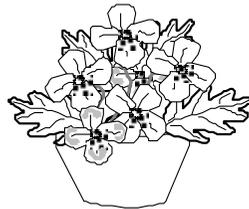
26 Sept Jennie Hillman and Andy Hill

SIDESPERSIONS ROTA

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

FLOWER ROTA

1st Nov	Mrs L. Boston
8th Nov	Remembrance Sunday
15th Nov	Mrs D. Davies
22nd Nov	Mrs D. Tunstall
29th Nov	Mrs N. Challinor



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

GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

Climbers 3-7 years	Sandra Morray.....	286093
Explorers 7-11 years	Estella Woodhead.....	761659
Pathfinders 11-14 years	Enid Bell.....	815775
Banner Group	Jeanette Rowlands.....	816713
Church Missionary Boxes	Cecilia Wilding.....	817987
Flower Guild	Marylyn Hillman.....	815936
Men's Fellowship	Mike Thompson.....	813712
Missions Secretary	Cecilia Wilding.....	817987
Prayer Group	Jeanette Rowlands.....	816713
Parents & Toddlers (Mon 9.30 – 11.15am)	Sandra Morray.....	286093
3rd Stone Brownies (Mo 6:00-7:30pm, First School)	Janet Smith.....	815939

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

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

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

Monday Toddlers 9.30 am

THE MAGAZINE TEAM

Mission News& Prayer Diary Cecilia Wilding 817987

Please send material for the magazine to

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

Christ Church welcomes you!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Subscriptions

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