

30p

Christ Church and People



October

Parish Magazine of
Christ Church Stone

2007

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

THE PARISH TEAM

| | | |
|-------------------------------|--|--|
| Vicar | Paul Kingman The Vicarage, Bromfield Court | 812669 |
| Curate | Tim Vasby-Burnie, 1 Navigation Loop | 814244 |
| Parish Office | | 811990 |
| Electoral Roll Officer | Irene Gassor | 814871 |
| Parish Office | Christ Church Centre, Christ Church Way, Stone, Staffs ST15 8ZB Email christchurch.centre1@btinternet.com | |
| Deaconess (Retired) | Ann Butler | 818160 |
| Readers | David Bell John Butterworth Margaret Massey David Rowlands Michael Thompson Cecilia Wilding | 815775 817465 813403 816713 813712 817987 |
| Music Co-ordinators | Peter Mason Jeff Challinor | 815854 819665 |
| Wardens | Phil Tunstall David Rowlands | 817028 816713 |
| Deputy Wardens | Shirley Hallam, Arthur Foulkes | |
| Prayer Request List | Barbara Thornicroft | 818700 |

CHRIST CHURCH CENTRE

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-------|----------|--------|
| Booking Secretary | Irene | (Office) | 811990 |
|--------------------------|-------|----------|--------|

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

In This Issue

| | |
|--|--------|
| Diary for August | 2 |
| Life is not cheap | 4 |
| October Sunday services | 5 |
| Confirmation service | 5 |
| Light Party | 5 |
| The life-changing goodness of God | 6 |
| UCCF (University and Colleges Christian Fellowship) | 7 |
| Website of the month | 8 |
| Third Culture Kids | 9, 10 |
| Foundations for Life | 10 |
| Into Your Hands | 11 |
| Back to Welcoming Churches (letter from the Bishop of Lichfield) | 12, 13 |
| A big, big Thank-You from Cecilia | 13 |
| Sparkford 3 2007 | 14 |
| Top Ten Hymns in Lichfield Diocese | 15 |
| From the registers | 16 |
| Roads for Prayer | 16 |

Christ Church



and People

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

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

Christ Church on the Internet

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Parish website | www.churches.lichfield.anglican.org/stone/stonecc |
| Parish office email | christchurch.centre1@btinternet.com |
| Magazine contributions | christchurch_mag@yahoo.co.uk |

October 2007

| | | | |
|-----|----|-----------------------------|--|
| Mon | 1 | 9:00am 6:30pm | Prayers for schools and young people Cornerstone for teenagers |
| Tue | 2 | 9:30am 10:30am 7:30pm | Christ Church First School assembly Midweek service Youth Club in the Centre |
| Wed | 3 | 7:45pm | Foundation for Life 2 |
| Thu | 4 | 1:20pm | Christ Church Middle School assembly |
| Fri | 5 | 9:30am | Christ Church First School Harvest service |
| Sat | 6 | 8:30am 9:00am | Prayer Meeting in church Breakfast in the Centre |
| Sun | 7 | 9:15am 6:30pm | Communion. Text: Amos 1 "The Lion has roared" United service at Manor Rise school. (Churches Together in Stone) |
| Mon | 8 | 9:00am 6:30pm | Prayers for schools and young people Cornerstone for teenagers |
| Tue | 9 | 9:30am 10:30am 7:30pm | Christ Church First School assembly Midweek service Youth Club in the Centre |
| Wed | 10 | 7:45pm | Foundation for Life 3 |
| Thu | 11 | 1:20pm | Christ Church Middle School assembly |
| Fri | 12 | | |
| Sat | 13 | | |
| Sun | 14 | 9:15am 6:00pm | Morning Prayer. Text: Amos 3 "Not an empty threat" Communion at Christ Church. Text: John 4:43-54 "Healer of the sick" |
| Mon | 15 | 9:00am 6:30pm | Prayers for schools and young people Cornerstone for teenagers |
| Tue | 16 | 9:30am 10:30am 7:30pm | Christ Church First School assembly Midweek service Youth Club in the Centre |

October 2007

| | | | |
|-----|----|-----------------------------|--|
| Wed | 17 | 7:45pm | Foundation for Life 4 |
| Thu | 18 | 1:20pm 2:00pm | Christ Church Middle School assembly Oulton Mothers Union, speaker Paul Kingman |
| Fri | 19 | | |
| Sat | 20 | | |
| Sun | 21 | 9:15am 6:00pm | Communion. Text: Amos 4 "Prepare to meet your God" Evening Prayer at Christ Church. Text: John 5:1-15 "Merciful to the helpless" |
| Mon | 22 | 9:00am | Prayers for schools and young people |
| Tue | 23 | 10:30am 7:30pm | Midweek service Youth Club in the Centre |
| Wed | 24 | | |
| Thu | 25 | | |
| Fri | 26 | | |
| Sat | 27 | | |
| Sun | 28 | 9:15am 6:00pm | Family service. Text: Amos 5:18-27 "The day of the Lord" Confirmation Service at Christ Church. |
| Mon | 29 | 9:00am 6:30pm 7:30pm | Prayers for schools and young people Cornerstone for teenagers Standing Committee meeting |
| Tue | 30 | 9:30am 10:30am 7:30pm | Christ Church First School assembly Midweek service Youth Club in the Centre |
| Wed | 31 | 5:00pm 7:45pm | Light Party Foundation for Life 5 |

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 **Friday Little Fishes** 11.00 am

Life is not cheap.

Recently I was stunned by news of an unprovoked attack on a father playing cricket with his son. This crime was committed by five boys between the ages of 10 to 13, who have subsequently been convicted of manslaughter and violent disorder at the Old Bailey. More recently local gun crime suggests that this is on our doorstep too. Where are we going wrong? It is evidence that we are out of touch with the LORD God Almighty, who values life and commands us to protect it.

The threatening, or taking, of life should disturb us. It deeply affects a family and unsettles a community. A change in perception can occur about what is normal behaviour. So, for example, an Essex company is doing good business by selling slash-proof clothes to parents wanting to protect their children. On the one hand this is an understandable precaution, but on the other hand it should not be necessary: it is a symptom of a lost society. The respect for life has been eroded.

The value of human life spans the whole of the Bible: *'whoever sheds the blood of a man, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God has God made man'* (Genesis 9v6). We have been made to live in relation to God and other people, with the task of being stewards of the world. Jesus takes this teaching a lot further: *'you have heard that it was said to the people long ago "do not murder, and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment." But I tell you that anyone who is angry with his brother will be subject to judgment'* (Matthew 5v21-22). Jesus is concerned with our motivations and passions as these are the source of either godly or ungodly behaviour. God's justice means that all sinful behaviour is deserving of His eternal judgment. Yet he shows that the root of murder is anger. That puts all of us under the spotlight!

We may not be guilty of murder, but who can say they have never been angry? We need forgiveness and the power to change. This is exactly what Jesus came to bring! Jesus' death and resurrection made forgiveness available for those who admit their wrong so that we can have a new start. He promises the gift of the Holy Spirit to enable us to learn to control our sinful motivations, but also to show forgiveness towards those who wrong and anger us.

(continued on next page)



Life is not cheap *(continued)*

A church that grows in faith and good deeds will be a church that devotes itself to learning from God's word, will meet to worship him and bear witness to the life changing power of the gospel.

Paul Kingman.

October Sunday sermons.

On Sunday mornings at Christ Church and at Oulton we tackle a series under the title: The Roar of the Lion, as we hear the message of Amos. The leaders of the nation were flouting God's law, wealth accumulated in the hands of the commercial classes, and the poor became increasingly deprived. Society was fragmenting. God sent a mercy mission and gave a final warning to his people in sending Amos to wake up the nation to reality: to make a break with patterns of the past and to set a new course for the future.

At Moddershall and during the evening services at Christ Church we delight in how John introduces Jesus. John's gospel records selected events in the life of the one who came 'from above' – that is he came from the Father's side in heaven – in order to reveal grace and truth. This is so that we can believe in Jesus as the Son of God and have life to the full.

Confirmation Service

A Confirmation Service will be held at Christ Church at 6:00 pm on Sunday October 28th. The Bishop of Stafford, Gordon Mursell, will preside.

Light Party

At 5pm on October 31st there will be a light party for children in the Church Centre. We don't believe in the powers of darkness, so wear something bright! Lots of fun, games and food! Please tell Enid Bell if you will be coming

The Life-Changing Goodness of God

As I write this, it is only a few days ago that I handed in my final essay as part of the course I was doing over these last three years in Oxford. (I finished it several months ago but the hand-in date has only just arrived.) I chose to write 10,000 words about sin. After all, I've had many years of experience so it should be easy to write! Actually, I wrote it because of a growing conviction that plumbing the murky depths of sin is extremely important for pastoral care, because as we become increasingly conscious of the deceitfulness of our heart (Jeremiah 17:9) we discover God's grace to be ever more precious and powerful.

Sin is, I think, typically understood as breaking commandments. Although this is true, if sin is only understood as wrong behaviour, then growing in godliness becomes merely attempts at behaviour modification. Our spiritual life withers and becomes an endless bashing of our heads against the brick wall of rules and regulations. It is not the way of joy and peace!

The first sin, recorded in Genesis 3, was a response to the serpent saying to Eve, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" This is often taken to mean the root of sin is found in denying the Word of God. But look more closely: read it again and ask yourself, "What is the serpent implying about God's character?"

God actually said, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden, except one." The serpent presents God as the ultimate miser, a spoilsport who doesn't want humanity to enjoy what He has created. In other words, the serpent is casting doubt on the goodness and generosity of God. This is where sin begins. When we disobey commandments, it is because we have first forgotten – or ignored – how wonderful our Creator is!

I hope you have a regular time when you read the Bible and pray. But as you read the Bible, don't spend all your time looking for new rules to follow. Instead, ask every passage, "How does this demonstrate the love and goodness and mercy of God?" Soak your minds with the good news of Jesus Christ – because it is in Him that we see God's goodness and generosity most clearly demonstrated. Just as the sun drives away darkness, so God's goodness will drive away sin. And your life will be changed.

7 UCCF (University & Colleges Christian Fellowship)

(Information in this article from UCCF web-site www.uccf.org.uk)

Today's UCCF was born out of one student's vision for mission back in 1923 – a vision that –

‘every university and college in Britain and the world should have its evangelical and witnessing Christian Union.’

The vision of UCCF: the Christian Unions in Britain is still the same today.

By 2010, 50% of 18-21 year olds in the UK will be studying in university or college. Of these 3.5 million students, 300,000 will be internationals. Most will know little of Jesus.

The changing face of student life sees many students affected by debt, loneliness and pressure. Increasingly few of these students have any church background, biblical knowledge or Christian faith. Some are hostile to the Gospel; many are open to thinking about Jesus.

Today's student world is an unparalleled opportunity to share the good news of Jesus with a spiritually hungry generation.

Christian Unions are Mission Teams of Christian students working at the heart of Britain's universities and colleges – living for Jesus, and speaking for Jesus. CUs are committed to making disciples of Jesus Christ from all nations on campus, and to making a godly impact in every sphere of university life.

UCCF say – ‘Our experience has shown us that Christian Unions function most effectively as Mission Teams when they are being envisioned, supported and resourced by UCCF Christian Union Staff Workers and where the students are properly involved in the life of a local church.’

Until now, this area has not had a UCCF Staff Worker, but now Luke Cawley has been appointed as CU Staff Worker in Staffs/Keele/Crewe. His responsibilities will be:

- Coordinating the support of CUs in Staffs/Keele/Crewe
- Encouraging and advising Christian students in their faith and witness
- Teaching on aspects of Christianity and contemporary issues
- Training CU leadership and participating personally in evangelism on campus

(continued on next page)

Luke, who has had considerable experience previously working with IFES (International Fellowship of Evangelical Students) in Romania, is looking to local churches and individuals for prayer and/or financial support.

The Mission Task Group were asked by Paul, our Vicar, to look at information about Luke's new role and consider contributing money as yet unallocated from our charitable giving fund to supporting Luke. This the Group did and agreed that £150 be given as a one-off support gift. We will be receiving news of Luke's work and items for prayer in coming months.

For further information about UCCF, see www.uccf.org.uk

Cecilia Wilding

Website of the Month

www.anglican-mainstream.net

As many will be aware, the Anglican Communion (i.e. the worldwide Anglican Church) is in turmoil at the moment. A serious split is not out of the question. Whatever happens *will* affect us all.

Anglican Mainstream – www.anglican-mainstream.net – was set up several years ago as a community of Anglo-Catholic, Evangelical and Charismatic Anglicans who are “committed to promote, teach and maintain the Scriptural truths on which the Anglican Church was founded and which guarantee its catholicity.” The Anglican Mainstream website is one of the best places to keep track of what is going on in the wider Anglican scene, so that we are kept informed and (more importantly) can pray for church leaders, Bishops and so on.

But it is not simply about keeping up to date of the current crisis. This website often carries interesting articles about some of today's hot topics: issues such as family life, human sexuality, and religious diversity. This is extremely helpful as these issues come up regularly in conversation with others. The Anglican Mainstream site also increases our awareness of the many ways in which God is building His Church, here and worldwide, which at the very least will be fuel for praise.

Tim Vasby-Burnie

Third Culture Kids (TCKs)

(Content of this article largely taken from Interserve's 'Go' magazine 2nd Quarter 2007 with kind permission)

Third Culture Kids (TCKs) referred to in this article are the children of Christians who are called by God to work in a culture other than their own native one – British nationals in the Philippines for instance.

Third Culture Kids live for a significant period of their developmental years in a culture different from that of their parents. TCKs have certain defining characteristics which are both strengths and challenges. These are typically:

- High mobility – they are often ‘global nomads’
- Bi/multi-lingual
- Good cross-cultural skills and sensitivity
- Flexibility and adaptability
- Broad world view > global citizens
- Strong ability to relate to all ages
- Strong rapport with other TCKs
- Rootlessness – ‘Where am I from?’

The last of these usually presents the greatest challenge because it raises questions of identity – ‘Who am I? Where am I from and where do I belong?’ These questions become more significant during early adulthood and are often compounded especially by the number and nature of transitions the TCK has been through.

Recent research of North American TCKs indicates that they are generally positive about being TCKs. They tend to be high achievers and they make excellent cross-cultural workers themselves. In a recent survey of several hundred TCKs the following responses were noted:

- 95% were pleased to have been born into a family of mission workers
- 55% felt included in their parents’ ministry
- 73% have graduated from college; 68% with excellent academic results. 4% have doctorates
- 73% attended boarding school at some time; 48% entered boarding school before the age of 9. Boarders do not differ from non-boarders on any of 10 ‘life satisfaction’ measures
- 28% have received some form of counselling

In the second quarter of 2007 in Interserve's magazine, several TCKs wrote about their perspective. Two copies of this magazine are on the cupboard under the Overseas Mission notice board in the Centre. Do have a look.

So, it would seem that being a TCK is no bad thing although there can be problems in early adult-hood. We pray for a number of TCKs at Christ Church:

- Helen (her husband is also a TCK), Sarah & Simon Baron – all at the age when they could hit problems. However, they have largely worked through them, but keep praying;
- Ben, Steffan & Jonathan Humphreys – Ben is now back in the UK, his ‘passport’ country. Having gone to India in his mid-teens, he may not be a typical TCK but his brothers are;
- Rebekah, James and Grace Lee – at home in the Philippine culture at present. – James spoke of being back ‘home’ when the family returned from the UK recently. This could get confusing later;
- Sheona, Joshua and Benjamin Bell are in their mother’s home country of Croatia. They may not be typical TCKs but could have some ambivalence later depending whether they continue in Croatia or come back to their father’s homeland in the UK at some point, or even settle for a while in Germany, their mother’s second homeland;
- The Beesigomwe children may have questions of identity too having spent so much of their lives in Botswana when their parents come from Uganda.

Hopefully, this article will get us thinking as to how we should pray for the children of the families we support overseas, especially as they get older. This article is a sequel to that in the July magazine entitled ‘Why Christian boarding schools?’

Foundations for Life...

... Discover the Gospel According to Moses

This six-week course will help us find foundations by giving an overview of the first five books of the Bible, the books that were foundational for Jesus himself! You don’t need to be a Bible expert, just someone who wants your life to line up with God’s story of salvation.

The course will run on Wednesday evenings, 7.45-9.15pm, at Christ Church Centre.

- September 26th
- October 3rd, 10th, 17th
- October 31st
- November 7th

Sally and Roger Vaughan

are leading a retreat at Shallowford House, Staffordshire, ST15 ONZ from Monday October 15th 2007 to Wednesday October 17th

'INTO YOUR HANDS'
Trusting a loving God
in the challenges of our life's journey

All of us face some tough times in the course of our life. Sometimes they challenge our faith in an all loving and all powerful God, wringing from us the agonized question "why*?" On the other hand it is often our experience that as we go through these mysterious dark days we are conscious of the support of a loving God.

The prayerful poem "Footsteps" highlights this commonly experienced enigma.

As Christians we contemplate the cross and hear Jesus crying out "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" (Mark15:34b). However St. Luke records that The Lord's last words from the cross were "Father into your hands I commit my spirit" (Luke 23:46).

Facing the difficult questions posed by the tough times in our lives, and learning the lessons of trust is the theme that Sally and I are hoping to explore in the retreat that we are leading from Monday evening (October 15th) to Wednesday afternoon (October 17th) at Shallowford House.

For further details and booking contact
The Warden, Shallowford House, 01785 760233

Roger and Sally Vaughan

Most of our churches have been involved in Back to Church Sunday. But what will happen to the people who have responded to our invitations and come?

I've seen many a person come to church and be put off from coming again. It can be terrifying when the steward waves you to a still empty nave and says, "Do sit wherever you like" in one of those churches where everyone turns up after the beginning of the service. It is even worse when the newcomer's over-pious neighbour waltzes up, flings her arms round him and says, "How lovely to see you" (i.e. "Why haven't you been for such a long time?") or, worse still, "I've been praying for you to come for ages; the Lord has answered my prayer!" An invitation to come back to church really means an invitation to be accompanied and be looked after by the inviting friend who will know where to sit and how to find the page or where the screen is visible.

But there are some things for the host congregation to do. First and most important is to pray and plan that the service will be helpful to guests, so that they can have space to encounter the love of God afresh without being pressured. A guest is a guest after all (would you take a friend to a restaurant and then pass a collection bag round the table?) Do all our services have something inspiring or helpful for people leading busy lives who aren't experts in church life?

Then there is the music. I've been to special occasions recently where invited guests have obviously known none of the music and have felt as comfortable as John Redwood trying to sing the Welsh National Anthem! Some modern worship songs are really for solo and band rather than congregation and it is unfair to expect guests to worship with songs that the congregation has only learned in the last couple of years. Of course worship is always stretching, but at least the first and last hymns could be old favourites.

Finally there is a point that we often miss – timing. In many cultures and many church traditions people love to worship the Lord together for hours, 'lost in wonder love and praise.' But that is not where most people in our diocese are. It may sound trivial but one of the most welcoming things a church can do for the newcomer is to reduce the time of its service from an hour and twenty minutes to forty-five minutes. This is not 'dumbing down' but just recognizing that things we take for granted can be beyond the attention span of those for whom it is unfamiliar.

A TV company did my parish a favour when it once forced us to reduce our morning service to 50 minutes. The editor pointed out that our service lasted longer than we thought; she got us to reduce the numbers of verses in the hymns (and the repetitions in the songs) and not to use all the alternatives every week. She insisted that readers and intercessors should be ready at the lectern by the end of the previous item and that items like notices should not be allowed to spread beyond their allotted time. We even managed some corporate silence.

A BIG, BIG THANK YOU FROM CECILIA

It was a big shock on 3rd July when my heart started to misbehave due to the high calcium in my blood, and I was somewhat rapidly removed to hospital.

I had been ill for some months before that but never realised it could be so serious. In those months I became increasingly less able to do much for myself, so a big, big thank you to those who did my shopping, fed me, accompanied me to appointments, ferried me in their cars etc. It was very much appreciated and saying ‘thank you’ is not enough.

Thank you to the many, many of you who came to visit me while in hospital – wonderfully organised by Irene. I’m not sure that I had any afternoon or evening that I didn’t have visitors. I had 48 get-well cards which cheered me up, especially when I got home.

Once home again, many of you enquired how I was, called in to visit, fed me, took me out. Christ Church really is a ‘family’ to me. Thank you.

And, above all, thank you for your prayers – prayer that has been abundantly answered. So many have commented on how well I look following surgery to remove the gland which caused the problem. That’s over six weeks ago now.

Me, being me, tried to get back into harness rather too quickly, and I have become rather tired. I am having to sort out priorities again and leave some things undone – a hard thing for me to do! (I am so grateful to those who have done some of those ‘undone’ things for me!). Please could you continue to pray for me for complete healing – body, mind and spirit.

THANK YOU,

Cecilia Wilding

Letter from Bishop of Lichfield *(continued)*

We didn’t keep to the 50 minutes every week after the cameras had departed of course, but we noticed the numbers of people, especially newcomers and those with children, who said that they could come more often if they could be sure of leaving within the hour.

I’ve been touched by people coming to confirmation or to ordination who have told me recently that their journey back to a lively relationship with God started with a simple invitation from a friend and a consistently warm welcome at their local church. May there be many of those this autumn.

Jonathan Gledhill (Bishop of Lichfield)

Sparkford 3 2007

A few weeks ago, we sadly saw the departure of Tom and Clare Nash, who have done an awful lot for the Church over the past two years.

I was especially upset by this, and so was glad to be able to spend 9 days with them, at “Sparkford 3”, a Christian Youth Camp, along with 80 other members, a team of Taskforces, and the Leaders.

Set in a boarding school, just outside the village of Sparkford, near Yeovil in Somerset, “Sparkford 3” is a great place to be, whether you’ve been a Christian for years, or you’re just beginning. It’s a mixture of sport, outdoor activities, fun days out, and of course, Bible studies and seminars.

Each day, we had an afternoon activity, which ranged from days out at an outdoor pursuit centre, to hunting cleverly disguised leaders around Yeovil. From a day out at the beach, to an afternoon competing in a Dorm Challenge (which got very messy!). In the mornings and evenings, we would have meetings in the theatre, where we would have a reading from the Bible, and then talk about it. Afterwards, we discussed it in our dorms, as well as discussing the seminars.

Everyday, we would have a seminar, based on problems that young Christians face, such as “Relationships”, “How to Pray” and “Science vs. Christianity”. These were extremely informative, and very easy to apply to our own lives.

Our Dorm groups consisted of about six other members (of the same sex and age) and a few leaders (who were all really amazing!).

Every year has a theme, and this year the theme was detectives and spies. Many of the activities were based on this, including two evenings where we had to dress up!

As well as all this, we had a lot of time to spend as we liked, so we could play golf, go swimming, spend time in our dorms, or participate in organised sport. All of these activities were onsite, which had excellent facilities.

Altogether, I’ve had an absolutely fantastic time, and I know that my faith has grown considerably because of Sparkford 3!

Tom Woodhead



A hymn written in the early 18th Century and another written in 2001 are amongst the Top Ten hymns of the north-west Midlands - according to the results of a recent survey.

Throughout the month of August the Church of England's Diocese of Lichfield asked visitors to its website to nominate their three favourite hymns. More than 220 hymns - including modern worship songs, traditional hymns and Christmas carols - were nominated and a total of 1,648 votes cast to produce the region's Top Ten Christian spiritual songs. The most popular hymn in the region - Dear Lord and Father of Mankind - wasn't intended to be a hymn at all. It was written as a protest against Vedic priests who used drugs to induce a hysterical form of worship. John Whittier's words, advocating a quiet contemplative response to God's call: "Let us, like them, without a word Rise up and follow thee"; are in sharp contrast to the words of the second-most favourite hymn, How Great Thou Art, whose singers respond to the awesome wonder of God's creation by proclaiming "My God How Great Thou Art."

The oldest hymn in the chart - Charles Wesley's Love Divine - dates back to 18th century; while the newest - In Christ Alone - was written by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend just six years ago.

Several other hymns in the Top Ten can be considered new, including "I The Lord of Sea And Sky", written by Dan Schutte in 1981; "Be Still For The Presence of the Lord", written by Southampton-based piano teacher David J Evans in 1985 and "Christ Triumphant", written by the Revd Michael Saward, a former Canon of Saint Paul's Cathedral in 1964 for the 28th birthday of the young people's fellowship of a church in Edgware.

The hymn Amazing Grace, which shares the title of a film released earlier this year about the life and work of anti-slavery campaigner William Wilberforce, failed to make it into the diocesan-wide Top Ten, coming in at 22. But it appears in the local Top Ten for Stoke-on-Trent, where it is 2nd; and Oswestry where it is 8th.

FROM THE REGISTERS

WEDDING

1st September David John Harrison and Julie Wood

FUNERALS

3rd September Alan Corlett Woods Aged 84

SIDESPERSIONS ROTA

| | AM | PM |
|----------|--|-------------|
| 7th Oct | V.Ledward, D.Wilson G.Holden, A. Greer | D. Shemilt |
| 14th Oct | J. Abrahams, J. Rowlands S. Hallam, T. MacFarlane | P. Tunstall |
| 21st Oct | P. Tunstall, I. Gassor M.Hutchinson, B.Hutchinson | D. Shemilt |
| 28th Oct | P.Hipkiss, V. Ledward A. West, D. Davies | P. Tunstall |

FLOWER ROTA

| | |
|--------------|----------------|
| 7th October | Mrs E. Leese |
| 14th October | Mrs A. West |
| 21st October | Mrs D. Wilson |
| 28th October | Mrs D. Pickles |



ROADS FOR PRAYER

7th October

Oulton Road
Oulton Mews
Princes Street
Queens Square

14th October

Navigation Loop, York Street
Rangeley View
Barnton Edge
Anderton View/Way

21st October

Bentley Close
Rendel Grove
Brindley Close
Rudyard Close

28th October

Cressey Close
Joules Drive
Cauldon Way
Harecastle Bank



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

GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

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

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