

Christ Church and People

30p



March

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 |
| Parish Administrator | Clare Nash (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 | |
| Youth Worker | Thomas Nash | 286551 |
| 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 | Shelagh Sanders | (Office) 811990 (Home) 760602 |
|--------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|

CHURCH SCHOOLS

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

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

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

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

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Christ Church



and People

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

Cover Story: Jerry Cooper drew lots of wonderful pictures for this magazine, all of them buildings in our parish. Here is a picture of Langtry's corner

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 |

March 2007

| | | | |
|-----|----|--|---|
| Thu | 1 | 10:30am 1:20pm | Daytime Lent Course Christ Church Middle School assembly |
| Fri | 2 | 1:10pm | Alleynes assembly |
| Sat | 3 | 8:30am 9:00am 7:00pm | Prayer meeting in church Breakfast in the Centre Evening with Phil and Arthur |
| Sun | 4 | 9:15am 6:00pm | Communion: Luke 5:12-32 "Crossing Boundaries" Evening Prayer. Romans 1:1-17 "The Message" |
| Mon | 5 | 9:00am 6:30pm 7:30pm | Prayers for schools and young people Cornerstone at 78 Oulton Road PCC meeting |
| Tue | 6 | 9:30am 10:30am 12:30pm 7:30pm | Christ Church First School assembly Midweek service Seekers Club Youth Club in the Centre |
| Wed | 7 | 7:45pm | Lent Course in the Centre |
| Thu | 8 | 10:30am 1:20pm | Daytime Lent Course Christ Church Middle School assembly |
| Fri | 9 | | |
| Sat | 10 | | |
| Sun | 11 | 9:15am 6:00pm | Morning Prayer. Luke 5:33-6:11 "Facing his critics" Communion Revelation 4:11 "God the Creator and loving Ruler" |
| Mon | 12 | 9:00am | Prayers for schools and young people |
| Tue | 13 | 10:30am 12:30pm 1:20pm | Midweek service Seekers Club Stone Fraternal Meeting |
| Wed | 14 | 7:45pm | Lent Course in the Centre |
| Thu | 15 | 10:30am 1:10pm 1:20pm | Daytime Lent Course Alleynes assembly Christ Church Middle School assembly |
| Fri | 16 | | |
| Sat | 17 | 10:00am | Old Testament preaching day for readers |

March 2007

| | | | |
|-----|----|--------------------------------------|---|
| Sun | 18 | 9:15am 6:00pm | Family Service. Luke 9:10-17 "The One who provides" Evening Prayer Mark 7:20-22, Romans 3:10-12 "Humanity in rebellion" |
| Mon | 19 | 9:00am 6:30pm | Prayers for schools and young people Cornerstone at 78 Oulton Road |
| Tue | 20 | 9:30am 10:30am 7:30pm | Christ Church First School assembly Midweek service Youth Club in the Centre |
| Wed | 21 | 12:00 7:45pm | Clergy Chapter meeting Lent Course in the Centre |
| Thu | 22 | 10:30am 1:20pm | Daytime Lent Course Christ Church Middle School assembly |
| Fri | 23 | 1:10pm | Alleynes assembly |
| Sat | 24 | | |
| Su | 25 | 9:15am 6:00pm | Communion Luke 9:46-62 "A shocking humility" Communion "Thess 2:8-9, Hebrews 9:27" "God gives us what we want" |
| Mon | 26 | 9:00am 1:10pm 6:30pm 7:30pm | Prayers for schools and young people Alleynes assembly Cornerstone at 78 Oulton Road Standing Committee |
| Tue | 27 | 10:30am 7:30pm | Midweek Service Youth Club in the Centre |
| Wed | 28 | 2:00pm 7:45pm | Stone Deanery Mothers Union service Final Lent Course in the Centre |
| Thu | 29 | 10:30am | Final Daytime Lent Course |
| Fri | 30 | 11:00am 2:00pm | Christ Church Middle School Easter service Christ Church First School Easter service |
| Sat | 31 | | |

Wilberforce and Amazing Grace.

This March marks the 200th anniversary of the passing of law to abolish slavery. The bill was a result of the work of William Wilberforce: a genuine disciple of Jesus Christ who applied Christian faith to public policy as he worked to apply its grace and truth.

Born into a privileged background in Hull, 1759, William's father died when he was young and for a time he lived with an uncle and aunt. Later, at St. John's College, Cambridge, Wilberforce was shocked by the behaviour of his fellow students: *"They drank hard, and their conversation was even worse than their lives."* One of his friends at university was William Pitt, who later became Britain's youngest ever Prime Minister. Wilberforce himself entered politics aged 20. He filled the Hull seat and supported the Tory government led by Pitt. Wilberforce joined 'the Clapham Set' - a group of evangelical members of the Anglican Church. He became interested in social reform and was later asked by Lady Middleton to use his power as an MP to bring an end to the slave trade. Wilberforce was sympathetic. In his first speech against the slave trade he spoke for 3½ hours and concluded: *'Sir, when we think of eternity and the future consequences of all human conduct, what is there in this life that shall make any man contradict the dictates of his conscience, the principles of justice and the law of God!'* The motion was defeated.

When Wilberforce presented his first bill to abolish the slave trade it was easily defeated. But he refused to be beaten. Wilberforce brought it up every year for the next 18 years, until the slave trade was finally abolished on 25th March 1806. When the vote was taken the Abolition of the Slave Trade bill was passed in the House of Lords by 41 votes to 20. In the House of Commons it was carried by 114 to 15 and it became law on 25th March 1807. British captains who were caught continuing the trade were fined £100 for every slave found on board. However, this law did not stop the British slave trade. If slave-ships were in danger of being captured by the British navy, captains often reduced the fines they had to pay by ordering the slaves to be thrown into the sea. (*continued over*)



William Wilberforce died on 29th July 1833 and is buried in Westminster Abbey. One month later, Parliament passed the Slavery Abolition Act granting all slaves in the British Empire their freedom. On 31st July 1834 around 800,000 slaves were set free.

William Wilberforce is an outstanding example of the impact of Christian discipleship both personally and on society. Yet he was but one of many people throughout history and across the world today who have understood what Jesus had done for him by grace: God showed him favour unworthy though Wilberforce knew himself to be. The apostle Paul wrote: *'All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth'* (Colossians 1v6). The lavish grace of God in Jesus Christ is life changing. This can never be a private matter. The gospel is both public truth and truth for the public arena. So, let's put our faith to work – upholding Christian truth in our own lives and also encouraging those who shape public policy to do so in line with the gospel of grace and truth.

Paul Kingman.

Exciting opportunity to visit the Lees in Manila

CMS are organising a visit for representatives from the Lees' Link Churches (of which Christ Church is one) to see the work that Tim & Kate Lee are doing amongst street children in Manila. The proposed visit is for 2 weeks in November 2007, cost £1,000+. If at all interested, see Cecilia soon!

MISSION AVIATION FELLOWSHIP

Imagine that you live in Madagascar where travel is so difficult that it is almost impossible to get help when you need it. You live in an isolated community and one of the inhabitants gets very badly injured. How do you get them medical help?

Mission Aviation Fellowship exists for just such an emergency. Their small aeroplanes can reach these remote areas which are almost impassable by road. They fly out doctors, medical equipment and even mobile clinics to these areas as well as transporting food supplies, missionaries and teachers. Their work is vital; as are your prayers and gifts of money to keep these planes flying.

CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

The Church Representation Rules require a new church electoral roll to be prepared for each Parish during 2007. This means that the present electoral roll will be obsolete and anyone at present on that roll will have to complete a new application form. Each member on the present roll will receive a new application form in the next few weeks and this must be completed by the end of March. If you are not on the present roll you can obtain a form from me or one of the Churchwardens in church or by calling in at the Benefice Office. Please ensure that your name, full address and telephone number are on the form before returning it. If you attend the church on a regular basis there are many reasons why you should consider being on the roll one of which is it will give you the right to vote at the Annual General Meeting enabling you to help make decisions within your own church or even consider being on the Parochial Church Council. Whether you wish to do this or not please consider applying to be a member of this church.

Irene Gassor
Electoral Roll Officer



The PCC met on Wednesday 17 January 2007 and the following matters were reported on, discussed and/or decided.

- Mrs H Challinor was elected as the Gift Aid Secretary
- It was agreed with the PCC of Oulton and Moddershall that the Local Fees for this year will remain unchanged.
- A pancake party for children will be held again this year at the slightly earlier time of 4:30pm.
- The Lent course this year will be '6 steps to encouragement' and will look at how we minister to each other.
- Remedial work is underway to address problems with the Sanctuary floor and also the weevils in the wooden block flooring.
- A task group was set up to investigate possible physical solutions to improve the access point between the church and the church centre.
- End of year financial statements are being gathered and proposals are being considered for inclusion in next year's budget.
- A 'Spring Clean' of the church and the church centre will take place on Saturday 24 February.

The next PCC meeting is on Monday 5 March 2007.

EASTER FLOWERS

The Flower Guild would be most grateful for donations towards the cost of Easter Flowers. There will be a plate at the back of church and in the Church Centre throughout March or donations can be given to a member of the Flower Guild.

If there are any names to be entered into the Book of Remembrance please hand these in to Barbara Thornicroft or to Marylyn Hillman by March 31st.

Thank you Marylyn Hillman

Coming soon!

MEGAQUEST HOLIDAY CLUB

For children aged 4-11 years.

Christ Church Centre, Stone
10th-13th April, from 1.30 to 3.30 p.m.

Find out about God's BIG plan for the world!

- Games
- Songs
- Bible stories
- Drama
- Craft
- Refreshments.



* 50 pence per session.

A little boy asked his father what was the highest number he had ever counted. Replying that he didn't know, the father asked his son his highest number. It was 973. "Why did you stop there?" wondered the father. "Because the church service was over."

I suspect that we all have probably sat through church services where your mind was focused on something just as trivial, rather than on God.

It's easy to let the mind wander. "I can't wait to see the football this afternoon." "I wonder what we're having for lunch." "I've never noticed before that the carpet down there is starting to unravel a bit."

Is it any wonder that we so often leave the service with the feeling that it wasn't very meaningful?

Worship should be a time when we are confronted with the majesty and glory of God. As we reflect on God's power, we realize how much we need Him in our times of weakness. As we reflect on God's wisdom, we realize how much we need Him in our times of indecision. As we reflect on God's holiness, we are made aware of our own sinfulness and the need for forgiveness. As we reflect on God's love, we realize the effort God has gone to to make that forgiveness available.

It's not a ritual we go through every week. It is an opportunity to express our praise to the One who means more to us than all the earth. As we truly worship and praise God from the heart, we become more aware of how much we want to live close to Him. We leave with the challenge to "be holy as He is holy."

"For the LORD is great and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods. For all the gods of the peoples are idols, But the LORD made the heavens. Honor and majesty are before Him; Strength and beauty are in His sanctuary. Give to the LORD, O families of the peoples, Give to the LORD glory and strength. Give to the LORD the glory due His name; Bring an offering, and come into His courts. Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness! Tremble before Him, all the earth." (Psalm 96:4-9)

Mike Thompson

Evening with Rebecca Williams

We had a delightful evening with Rebecca Williams on February 15th. After a sumptuous shared supper she showed us some slides of where she lives in a valley among the Himalayan mountains. We heard about her everyday life and her language studies, about the students to whom she teaches English, and about the Karakoram Highway where every journey is an adventure.

By March, she will be back amongst the mountains with a view from her window of one of the world's highest mountains (with an unpronounceable name).

Many of us have known Rebecca for a great number of years (and she looks no older!), we wish her well.

Young People's Activities on Sunday Mornings

Activities for young people take place in the centre during the Sunday morning service each Sunday except the fourth 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 |



Fairtrade Goods Sale

Fairtrade goods will be on sale in the Centre after the morning service on March 25th

Mothers Union

"Following the closure of the Christ Church Mothers' Union, some of the former members have decided to join the Oulton Branch. Anyone else interested in taking this option should contact Ann Butler."

Dear Friends

This will be my last letter from America. We are very close to the point where we stop going south and turn west into the St Lucie Canal and the Okeechobee Waterway. Lake Okeechobee is the second largest lake in the USA, and if you look at a map of Florida you will see it clearly. It is 35 miles across and full of alligators. Should we survive the crossing we will be flying home with Jim before the end of March and worshipping with you all on Palm Sunday.

Florida feels very different to the other states we've cruised through. There has been no real sense of community in the towns we've stopped in – they are full of holidaymakers and tourist attractions. We went to church in St Augustine, the oldest European settlement in USA, founded in 1565 by the Spanish. It was a pretty little church with stained glass windows reminiscent of the Pre-Raphaelites and we hoped for an interesting sermon which would make us think a bit. But the vicar had just attended a Diocesan conference and spent his twenty minutes telling us how important an influence this parish had had on the agenda of the meeting! Below the pulpit a lady interpreted his words in sign language for the front row of worshippers. We did hope they got some message to carry back home and reflect upon, but we were very disappointed.

Please don't think I'm critical of the Americans we've met. Everyone has been so friendly and helpful on our journey and we have been given many, many presents, ranging from grapefruit from the garden to a bucket of roasted oysters. We asked an English lady, now settled in South Carolina, why this generosity and her theory was that when America was first settled everyone helped and shared with everyone else, and this tradition still holds strong, especially in smaller communities. In the churches where we've worshipped we have always been made to feel a part of the congregation. We've joined them in celebrating the birthdays and wedding anniversaries of their parishioners and in praying for the "deployed", their term for the armed forces fighting abroad. We have always left the church feeling as though we belonged.

(continued over)

Terry's book is nearly finished. We hope it will paint a picture of what life is like in the rural communities down the east coast of the southern states. The Lord has given us a wonderful adventure and a chance to enjoy a different part of His amazing world. Now we are tired and ready to come home and take a place again in our own community.

God bless you all

Monica Darlington

Lent course: 'Six Steps to Encouragement.'

God has given every Christian an enormous privilege and gift: the power to speak his life-changing word into the lives of other people. There's no reason at all for there to be 'passengers' in church: every Christian can change the lives of those around them through knowing and telling the message of God's grace, whether in front of a group, in a hand written note, in a one-to-one conversation over coffee or in many other ways. Every Christian can be a channel of encouragement.

Through video input, Bible study, exercises and discussion we will learn about how to bring life, hope and strength to those around us by bringing the powerful word of God to them.

This Lent course began on Ash Wednesday and there is also a daytime group. There is a booklet, which each person will need, available from the church bookstall for £3

13 Please pray for “Blessing and Revival in Zagreb”

(Stephen Bell wrote to us) On the weekend of 17th/18th February, we celebrated the Dubrava Baptist church's second birthday and acquired autonomy from its mother church Radiceva Baptists.

As you seek the Lord and intervene on behalf of the masses of Zagreb may you be blessed! We, the new church of Dubrava and the mother church Radiceva Baptists (city centre), together with the other 15 evangelical churches in the city thank you. Thank you brothers and sisters for standing before the Lord with us as we seek to win the city for God.

We are very aware that the task is huge. That is why we are asking YOU to prayer. In general the folk around are apathetic to the Gospel - or better said – they just have no idea!

We believe that God does want revival (dare we use that word today? – Why not!?!). What we believe is needed is specific prayer for the conversion (no less) of many. Pray that a spirit of seeking and trusting God for all would appear more and more amongst the approximate 2,000 evangelicals of Zagreb. Pray for a determination and spiritual boldness linked to a sacrificial life, focused on God's will for us all. Your prayer could prepare the hearts of the lost to seek God. Our prayer is that we believers will come into dynamic contact with those that God prepares through your and others' prayers. Please pray also for the other 15 evangelical churches who are also doing their best to “reap the harvest”.

In order to pray more effectively, and to aid somewhat your understanding, please see the ECMI website www.ECMI.org, see Eastern Europe and then Croatia, including the blogsite included “Blessings for Croatia”

There you will see the following headings:

Flag-Map

Introduction to Croatia

Spiritual Climate in brief

Vision statement + map of Zagreb

ECM in Croatia – Church-planting in Zagreb

Mjuzikids – is a children's choir ministry that holds concerts.

COMING EVENTS!!!

- Evening of prayer for revival and blessing for eastern Zagreb
- Pentecost Tent Evangelism May 24th, 25th, 26th and 27th 2007

Tearfund says of itself – ‘We are one of the UK’s leading relief and development charities – a movement of Christians standing with people in poverty. We’re committed to offering hope, providing a meaningful future, and speaking out against injustice. We work with local partners in 70 countries.’

For many years now, Christ Church has provided an opportunity to give to one of Tearfund’s projects twice a year – once at Harvest and again on Tearfund Sunday, which has traditionally been on the first Sunday in March. This year we will focus on **WORK a MIRACLE**, Tearfund’s project to stop the spread of HIV in the poorest places where they work by 2015.

Tearfund’s plan to stop the spread of HIV and reverse the impact of AIDS includes:

- Preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV
- Supporting women and children affected by HIV
- Promoting access to treatment
- Ending stigma and discrimination
- Changing behaviour among children and young people

On 4th March 2007, there will be:

- offering plates out in church and the Centre for people to place their gifts in if they feel they should give to the project;
- ‘brunch’ in the Centre after the service – proceeds to Tearfund;
- and the showing of a Tearfund DVD about the project.

DO PLAN TO JOIN US ON THE 4th MARCH

Did you know that donkeys are mentioned in the Ten Commandments? In Exodus 20:17 we are commanded “You shall not covet your neighbour’s house. You shall not covet your neighbour’s wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything else that belongs to your neighbour”. “To covet” means “to desire greatly (especially something belonging to another person)”. What are we coveting at the moment?



ROADS FOR PRAYER

Please pray for people living in these streets of our parish

4th March

The Crescent
End of Granville Terrace
Millers Gate
Harley Drive

11th March

Albert Street
Alexandra Street
Arthur Street
Berkeley Street

18th March

Chestnut Grove
Edward Street
Field Terrace

25th March

Meaford Avenue
Mount Avenue
Mount Crescent



A training curate for the benefice.

We are pleased that the benefice and its incumbent have been approved by the Diocese to provide a training post for a curate.

We are pleased to announce that Timothy Vasby-Burnie, his wife Caroline and their daughter Hannah will join us during the autumn. They are currently at Wycliffe Hall, in Oxford, where Tim is studying.

An Evening with Phil and Arthur 7:00 pm Saturday 3rd March in the Centre Something for Everyone!

Sale of Plants and Pots of Spring Bulbs
Guessing Games to Play with Great Prizes to Win!
Be part of a team in a light-hearted Quiz
Refreshments
Tickets £1 from Phil and Arthur
Proceeds to the Church General Fund

SIDESPERSIONS FOR MARCH

| | AM | PM |
|----------------------|---|------------|
| 4 th Mar | D.Wilson, C.Wilding A.Greer, V.Ledward | D.Shemilt |
| 11 th Mar | J.Rowlands, A.West S.Hallam, T.MacFarlane | P.Tunstall |
| 18 th Mar | P.Hipkiss, M.Hutchinson B.Hutchinson, D.Wilson | D.Shemilt |
| 25 th Feb | G.Holden, M.Holden C.Wilding, A.Greer | P.Tunstall |

FLOWER ROTA

| | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| 4 th March | Lent |
| 11 th March | Lent |
| 18 th March | Mothering Sunday |
| 25 th March | Lent |



ADVERTISEMENTS

We have a fully equipped 4 berth motor home, plus awning for sale at a reasonable price. It is a Fiat Ducato Diesel engine. Please contact Mike Thompson if you are interested

Piano available! See Enid Bell

| | | |
|----------------------------|--|--------|
| Deanery Synod Reps | Mrs S Hallam, Mr I Hawley, Mr D. Rowlands | |
| P.C.C. Members | Mr J Challinor, Mrs B Guerrard, Mrs I Gassor Mr D Guerrard, Mrs M Hillman, Mrs E Mason, Mr P Mason, Mrs D Wilson, Mrs E Woodhead Mrs M. Hutchinson, Mrs E. Bell, Mrs S. Morray, Mrs S. Sanders | |
| Secretary | Jacqueline Abrahams..... | 817020 |
| Treasurer | Kevin Reynolds..... | 851595 |
| Envelopes, Gift Aid | Ian Hawley..... | 811646 |

GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

| | | |
|---|------------------------|--------|
| Climbers 3-7 years | Sandra Morray..... | 286093 |
| Explorers 7-11 years | Estella Woodhead..... | 761659 |
| Pathfinders 11-14 years | Enid Bell..... | 815775 |
| Cornerstone Bible Study | Thomas Nash..... | 286551 |
| Youth Group Yr9 upwards | Thomas Nash..... | 286551 |
| 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

Missionary Prayers

TEARFUND

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

- Thu 1st Flooding has forced over 340,000 to leave their homes in Jakarta, central Indonesia. Pray that everyone affected will receive aid and have a safe place to stay until the floods recede Pray for Tearfund's disaster prevention work in Indonesia, including early warning systems and flood resistant housing, so that the effect of future disasters can be reduced
- Fri 2nd Some southern African countries have also been affected by torrential rain - Angola, Mozambique, Zambia and Malawi (said to be caused by El Nino). Pray that all four countries can access clean water and medicine to combat the risk of cholera. Pray also for the many children who have been orphaned in Angola due to the floods. Pray that the government may find areas for the displaced communities quickly and that road access can be improved. (Today is the Women's World Day of prayer)
- Sat 3rd Give thanks for the prayers of Christians in Zimbabwe; eight leaders of the Zimbabwe Christian Alliance who had been arrested were released on bail. Pray for a just outcome at their hearing next week. Pray for protection for those working to alleviate poverty. Pray also that the EU will decide to renew sanctions. .
- Sun 4 Today is Tearfund Sunday A new venue (at present southern Sudan) is needed for the peace talks between the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and the Ugandan government. Pray that a way will be found to get the two sides talking again and that the war will not restart. Pray for Tearfund partner Noah's Ark who work with children affected by the conflict. They also train local teachers in trauma counselling - pray that they will have the wisdom to know the best way to help the children to recover from their experiences.
- Mon 5th Pray for communities in northern **Pakistan** experiencing a harsh winter with inadequate shelter, and for the most vulnerable in these communities. Give thanks for Tearfund partner Shelter Now International providing vital support. They have been able to supply transitional shelter kits for 34,000 people.

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

The Lee family are back into the thick of the work of Jigsaw Kids Ministries amongst street children and families in Manila. We received a personal e-mail on 7 February with their prayer requests and we recently received their CMS Link Letter with news of the family

- Wed 7th Praise God with them for the miraculous healing of Kate's mum from a severe depression following the death of Kate's brother two years ago. Pray for Tim's father in a nursing home in Huddersfield. His condition has been deteriorating. Tim came home to see him last month.
- Thu 8th Pray for their new secretary, Jogie, who has just started at Jigsaw, that she will settle in fast and really be able to help Jigsaw in running a very busy office.
- Fri 9th Pray for continued funds for the work - they give thanks to those who have signed up for monthly giving - it's a huge help. Pray also that they may reach their CMS funding target for the family. Giving has increased, for which they are very grateful, but they haven't yet reached the target
- Sat 10th Pray for leisure time for Kate & Tim who continually seem to be working whether it's out or back at home enailing or doing accounts.
- Thank God for Rudolpho (previously called Buboy in e-mails), the father of the previous street family who is now working for Jigsaw as a labourer on renovating the new Area 4 Kids Centre - his first proper job for a long time. He was previously selling drugs and living on the street with his family of seven children.

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

The family are now back at Hebron School in the second term. They had a good winter holiday and rejoiced to see how the Nepalese church has grown. It was a bit spoiled for Owen in that he had a small dog bite. As he didn't get it attended to straight away, there was a small chance that he might have contracted rabies - so he was still having rabies shots when he wrote on 7th February with their prayer requests:

- Sun 11th Ben is in his final year of school and has his A level exams... he needs motivation to study.
- Mon 12th Jonny has broken his knuckle. Pray that it would heal up well and quickly, and that he and his brother would refrain from irritating each other and fighting!
- Tue 13th SteffTan could do with academic encouragement

- Wed 14th This is Tracy's busiest term in the Art Room with GCSE and A Level exams to get the kids through. Pray for her.
- Thu 15th Samantha, from their home church, is there as a volunteer for five months Pray that she has a wonderful time - the people, the shops, the au-torickshaws, and that she may be kept safe and well.

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

Ralph & Dagmar had a great holiday in North India with their daughters, Helen & Sarah this winter. They are now back at Hebron School and finding it very hard work A dispute between two families at the School has meant that there is more work and fewer people to do it. Dagmar has taken on the role of Head of Personal Development, looking after the academic and personal development of the students.

- Fri 16* Pray for Dagmar, for the strength and wisdom she needs to fulfil her additional duties as well as her previous ones. Last term she became very over-tired and prone to infections. Pray for her health this term.
- Sat 17th Pray for harmony to be restored at the School so that all can concentrate on the education and welfare of the children and young people.
- Sun 18th Pray for Ralph and those in his department as they seek to improve the School's computer network to make it more reliable and less prone to failures. (*Today is Mothering Sunday*)
- Mon 19th Ralph reports that Simon has been doing his A Level mock exams and seems to have got through them without too much work! Pray for Simon at Hebron, Helen in Paris studying French Law, and Sarah studying medicine in Sussex, that they may all be able to study effectively and also grow in their spiritual lives.
- Tue 20th Ralph and Dagmar are going to hold another Bible study for A Level students this term on "Searching Issues", a repeat/continuation of what they did last term. Pray that God may speak to both students and leaders.

REBECCA - PAKISTAN

It was lovely to have Rebecca with us twice in mid-February, and we now have a clearer idea of her situation. She returned to Pakistan last month. We pray for:

- Wed 21st Rebecca to settle back quickly into her life in her city in the north, and to renew the relationships she had before her holiday
- Thu 22nd For her teaching at the girls' school as she helps prepare the older students for important exams.
- Fri 23rd For her to be kept safe on the roads (bendy, with precipitous drops on the side and the possibility of rock falls.
- Sat 24th That Rebecca will know clearly what her next step will be after school finishes.

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

- Sun 25th During February, the Dubrava church held an evangelistic campaign and celebration for the second anniversary of the church-plant. Please pray for all in the area who heard about the church and came along. (Today is Freedom Sunday, celebrating the 20th anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade in this country)
- Mon 26th Please pray also for Pentecost Tent Evangelism events to be held on May 22nd-25th.
- Tue 27th Pray for the youth in the community around Sesvete and Dubrava to have a hope and a future.
- Wed 28th Pray for members of the church who need full-time employment.

JONATHAN & ROBINAH BEESIGOMWE - BOTSWANA

Jonathan and Robinah are involved in student outreach and HTV/AIDS education. They are Ugandan citizens and have seven children.

- Thu 29* Please pray for the new Bows and Arrows Ministry (Jonathan and Robinah's organisation), that families and young people in Botswana and Zimbabwe will be helped to live better lives.
- Fri 30th Please pray for meetings of the Women's League, that they will have resources and abilities to help poor and sick people.
- Sat 31st The Bows and Arrows Ministry has been given some land in Zimbabwe (the quality of the land may not be very good). Please pray that this opportunity may be used to the full in God's work.