

30p

# Christ Church and People



May

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

<b>Vicar</b>	Paul Kingman The Vicarage, Bromfield Court	812669
<b>Parish Administrator</b>	Clare Nash (Office)	811990
<b>Electoral Roll Officer</b>	Irene Gassor	814871
<b>Parish Office</b>	Christ Church Centre, Christ Church Way, Stone, Staffs ST15 8ZB Email christchurch.centre1@btinternet.com	
<b>Youth Worker</b>	Thomas Nash	286551
<b>Deaconess (Retired)</b>	Ann Butler	818160
<b>Readers</b>	David Bell John Butterworth Margaret Massey David Rowlands Michael Thompson Cecilia Wilding	815775 817465 813403 816713 813712 817987
<b>Music Co-ordinators</b>	Peter Mason Jeff Challinor	815854 819665
<b>Wardens</b>	Phil Tunstall David Rowlands	817028 816713
<b>Deputy Wardens</b>	Shirley Hallam, Arthur Foulkes	
<b>Prayer Request List</b>	Barbara Thornicroft	818700

---

## CHRIST CHURCH CENTRE

<b>Booking Secretary</b>	Shelagh Sanders (Office) (Home)	811990 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

# In This Issue

Diary for May	2
Elected	4
Liars, Evil Brutes and Lazy Gluttons	5
What a Liberty!	5
Easter Flowers (Thank You)	5
MEGAQUEST Holiday Club	6
Christ Church Middle School	7
St John the Evangelist Church, Oulton	8
Radiance, A feast of Christian Spirituality	9
Feba Radio	10
Wedding of Rachel Morray and Paul Swinson	11
Michelle Parry	12
A Thank You for prayers	12
Mini Keswick heads for a First in Lichfield	13
Little Fishes- Friday Toddler Group	13
PCC News	15
Roads for Prayer	16
From the Registers	16

## Christ Church



## and People

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

---

**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 Granville Terrace

---

### Christ Church on the Internet

Parish website	<a href="http://www.churches.lichfield.anglican.org/stone/stonecc">www.churches.lichfield.anglican.org/stone/stonecc</a>
Parish office email	<a href="mailto:christchurch.centre1@btinternet.com">christchurch.centre1@btinternet.com</a>
Magazine contributions	<a href="mailto:christchurch_mag@yahoo.co.uk">christchurch_mag@yahoo.co.uk</a>

# May 2007

Tue	1	10:30am 2:00pm 7:30pm	Midweek service Tuesday at Two bible study Youth Club in the Centre
Wed	2		
Thu	3	1:20pm	Christ Church Middle School assembly
Fri	4		
Sat	5	8:30am	Prayer meeting followed by breakfast
Sun	6	9:15am 6:00pm	Communion: Romans 8:1-11 "Are you in or out?" Evening Prayer (Oulton). Revelation 20 "Evil, death and Hades"
Mon	7	9:00am 6:30pm	Prayers for schools and young people Cornerstone for teenagers, 78 Oulton Road
Tue	8	10:30am 1:00pm 2:00pm 7:30pm	Midweek service Churches Together in Stone fraternal meeting Tuesday at Two bible study Youth Club in the Centre
Wed	9	7:30pm	Standing Committee meeting
Thu	10	1:20pm	Christ Church Middle School assembly
Fri	11		
Sat	12		Northern Men's Convention
Sun	13	9:15am 6:00pm	Morning Prayer. 1 Corinthians 9 "Free <i>but a servant</i> " Communion (Oulton). Revelation 21 "All new"
Mon	14	9:00am 6:30pm	Prayers for schools and young people Cornerstone for teenagers, 78 Oulton Road
Tue	15	10:30am 2:00pm 6:45pm 7:30pm	Midweek service Tuesday at Two bible study Christ Church First School governors' meeting Youth Club in the Centre
Wed	16		
Thu	17	2:00pm 7:30pm	Mother's Union meeting at Oulton Ascension Day communion service, St Saviours Aston

# May 2007

Fri	18		
Sat	19	10:00am	Plant Sale- 32 Redwood Ave. 10 am to 4pm
Su	20	9:15am 6:00pm	Morning Prayer. 2 Corinthians 3:7-17 "The glorious new covenant" Communion (Oulton). Revelation 22 "Maranatha"
Mon	21	9:00am 6:30pm	Prayers for schools and young people Cornerstone for teenagers, 78 Oulton Road
Tue	22	10:30am 12:30pm 2:00pm 7:30pm	Midweek service Seekers at the Middle School Tuesday at Two bible study Youth Club in the Centre
Wed	23	7:30pm	PCC meeting
Thu	24	1:20pm 7:30pm	Christ Church Middle School assembly Deanery Synod meeting at Christ Church
Fri	25		
Sat	26		
Su	27	9:15am 6:00pm	Family/Baptism. Ezekiel 36 "A new heart" Communion (Oulton). "The way ahead"
Mon	28		
Tue	29	10:30am	Midweek service
Wed	30		

## 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



## Elected

---

May is a good month for elections as fair weather tends bring out more voters. Voters must elect the candidate they think is most suitable or worthy to carry the weight of public office. Christians are encouraged to pray *'for kings and all in authority that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness'* (1 Tim 2v2), as privilege carries great responsibility.

The Bible uses the word 'elect' in another, almost contrary, sense to modern politics. Political candidates are elected on the basis of merit: what can they offer in terms of their track record in public service that commends them to us? However, when it comes to becoming part of God's elect (a member of His people) it has nothing to do with merit at all. Let me repeat that in case your eye skipped over the sentence: becoming part of God's people is not a result of merit. Human achievements do not lead to God's acceptance. Instead, acceptance into God's family is a result of God's mercy and grace. His undeserved favour is shown to the unworthy ones who have faced up to their spiritual bankruptcy before God. That's why Jesus said that he had come as a doctor for *'the sick'* (Luke 5v31).

The apostle Paul helpfully reminds his readers: *'not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong....so that no one can boast before him'* (1 Cor 1v26b-29). The gospel of Jesus Christ is a great leveller. None can plead a special case or ask for special treatment: all must stand before the cross of Christ and admit their need for forgiveness and their powerlessness to get themselves right with God. Only those who put their trust in the cross of Christ (God's way for us to be put right with Him) can be reconciled to God and receive the Holy Spirit to redirect their lives. Those who receive God's amazing grace are the 'elect'. Such privilege brings with it the responsibility to live for Christ as his representative and servant in the community.

At the annual church meetings we looked back with thanks for another year of the Lord's undeserved favour towards us. We are now to look to him for future grace with the expectation of his return and the fulfilment of his eternal Kingdom. This is what is in store for his elect. I invite you to come and explore these things with us each Sunday as we celebrate the grace shown to us through the risen Jesus who is our Lord and Saviour.

Paul Kingman.



## ‘Liars, evil brutes and lazy gluttons’

---

The title of the 4<sup>th</sup> Northern Men’s Convention is ‘*Liars, evil brutes and lazy gluttons.*’ The phrase comes from ancient Crete as it describes the reputation gained by ancient Cretans.

Such a reputation is to be rejected by Christian men, but what should we stand *for*? At the convention we will learn more of what it means to be truly Christ-like. It is a great opportunity for men to meet across denominations and grow in their understanding of what contemporary discipleship should mean.

The convention costs just £17 is on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May at the Armitage Centre, Manchester [see [www.christianconventions.org.uk](http://www.christianconventions.org.uk) or ring 0845 225 0880]. Bring your own lunch.

---

### Fairtrade Goods Sale

Fairtrade goods will be on sale in the Centre after the morning service on May 27th.

---

### What a Liberty!

Sermon texts at morning services in May will be on the subject of the Freedom we have in Christ

May 6th	Romans 8:1-11	“Are you in or out?”
May 13th	1 Corinthians 9	“Free, but a servant”
May 20th	2 Corinthians 3:7-17	“The glorious new covenant”

---

### Easter Flowers (Thank You!)

A Big Thank You to everyone who gave donations towards the cost of Easter flowers and I would also like to thank my team of 'Flower Ladies' who enhanced our worship with their God given gift of Flower Arranging.  
Marylyn.

---

### Plant Sale

32 Redwood Avenue, 10am to 4pm. Plants for beds, borders and baskets! Proceeds to Church Funds, the Clifford Project and the Joseph Orphanage in Malawi. Contact Jack or Barbara Sutcliffe for further details.

## Megaquest Holiday Club

---

From the 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> April we had the Megaquest holiday club. It was a week of much fun with lots of games, activities, craft, songs and drama all with a computer theme. Everyday we made a part of our computer in our groups; the Nanobytes, Bytes, Kilobytes, Megabytes, Gigabytes and Terabytes.

We were looking at God's BIG plan for the world as we progressed each day to the next level in the computer game. Level 1 was The Garden, looking at God's creation of the world and humanity's rebellion against God. Level 2 was The Mountain looking at God's law he gave to his people through Moses and their continuing rebellion against God. Level 3 was The Hill. This was focussed on the cross and the way God made people his friends through the death of his Son, Jesus Christ. Level 4 was The Road where two disciples met the risen Lord Jesus on the road to Emmaus. Level 5 was on Sunday where we looked at heaven and the end of God's BIG plan.

During the week the children enjoyed all the various games and the very well prepared craft activities. They also enjoyed seeing Mr Chip and his characters Speedy Weedy, Lata Data and Bit Byte as they muddled through Mr Chip's computer game trying to avoid the 'Virus' and bearing the consequences of going into the Memory Bank.



All of this would not have been possible without the hard work of the leaders and the many hours of preparation that went in beforehand so huge thanks goes out to all who were involved with a very successful holiday club.

Tom Nash



## **The Smile TU Project!**

As part of their Citizenship lessons, Year 8 pupils are helping to raise money for an orphanage in Mombasa. They are supporting the Girl Guides from Stone Outward Division who are returning to Mombasa in 2008 to carry out a new project at the Tumaini Orphanage.

The home opened in November 2005 after many years of raising funds and acquiring the land to build on. Everything has been donated. As of 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2006 they had accepted 16 children. There will be room for 70 children. There are two dormitories, taking 30 girls and 30 boys who are infected, or affected by the HIV/AIDS virus. Most are orphaned. There is also a ten bed hospice for the very sick children to be cared for during their fragile lives.

A school building is planned so that children can have an education which will help them to enjoy a better life. It is their aim to build, paint and work with the children. The Guides aim is to raise £40,000. So far they have raised about £11,054.47.

So far at Christ Church Middle we have raised over £100.00 by holding a Cake Sale and an Easter egg raffle. Future fundraising events include further cake sales and a fair which will be held on the afternoon of Friday 4<sup>th</sup> May.

Olivia Stanyer, Samantha Turton, Ruby Hopps, Lucy Deakin 8R

## **Do you have time to spare between 12:15-1:15 on a Wednesday?**

Form 7G at Christ Church Middle School are working on a Citizenship project to improve their school grounds.

We would welcome any practical help you can offer or any donations of materials e.g. compost, plants, plant pots, tools and white masonry paint. If you are able to help in any way please contact:-Mrs Bell at Christ Church or Mrs Abbot via the Christ Church Middle School office (354047).

Emily.H, Carys.M.M.C, Abby.D.

## 8 ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH, OULTON

---

If you travel from Stone in a north-easterly direction for about a mile or so you will come to the extremely pleasant village of Oulton (and indeed referred to in the Staffordshire Advertiser of June 9<sup>th</sup> 1860 as “this not unromantic village”). The main road or street in the village is Church Lane, and although it would be good to report that the Church of St John the Evangelist is in the centre of the village, sadly it is not. It is situated at the far end of Church Lane, being the last building on the right hand side as you approach Nicholls Lane.

Although the village had a National School in 1860, the church and the churchyard at Oulton were not consecrated until Wednesday July 13<sup>th</sup> 1878 at 10.45 am, since then it is fair to say the church has flourished. In 1985 a small but extremely useful Church Room was added, not without its planning difficulties but as the result of a great deal of prayer. Not only was the initial debt paid off within 2 years, but there was a residue of £1,850.00. The Church Room provides decent accommodation for all kinds of church meetings, but it is not really big enough to accommodate larger village gatherings.

The Parish of Oulton with Moddershall had their own incumbent until 1984 when the Rev Brian Reeve left Christ Church in Stone. Because of the then shortage of clergy and because both Oulton and Christ Church were both under the patronage of the Simeon Trustees, the congregation of Oulton and Moddershall agreed with some reluctance to share their incumbent with the members of Christ Church, and so the Rev John Williams was licensed to be the Priest-in-Charge of the united benefice of Christ Church with Oulton and Moddershall.

Many small village churches are today having a bit of a struggling time. Declining congregations and increasing parish shares put a great strain on limited resources. This is not the case at Oulton. The parish share of course does increase every year (usually by much more than the rate of inflation) but the congregation of Oulton is growing. There were 89 in the congregation on Easter Sunday, and the average Sunday attendance throughout the year is somewhere in excess of 50.

Why does Oulton church flourish? It is well led by Paul. He is wonderfully supported by the Lay Readers at Christ Church, one of whom, Margaret Massey, now devotes herself to the young people at Oulton. Deaconess Ann Butler guides us too and regularly administers Holy Communion to several housebound members of our congregation.

*(continued on page 9)*

## 9 ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST CHURCH, OULTON

---

*(continued)*

Perhaps the best way of illustrating how flourishing Oulton Church is is to list the organisations within the church which all contribute to the wealth, the life and the success of a truly thriving village church – the Mothers' Union, the Women's Circle, the Home Fellowship, the Missionary Fellowship, the Trekkers (4-10 years), the Pastoral Care Group, the Special Events Committee, the profitable church magazine, the PCC, the dedicated churchyard team and two uncompromising "bullies" who call themselves Churchwardens.

Despite a slightly exaggerated man-made rivalry between the congregations of Oulton and Christ Church (they do say that when it comes to catering Christ Church are not in the same league!) the two parishes get on well together, share events and encourage and support each other where possible.

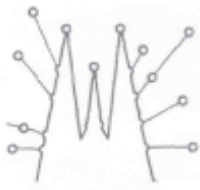
Visitors to Oulton Church receive a welcome that is nothing if it is not extremely warm.

Ivan R. Forster

---

### 'RADIANCE' A Feast of Christian Spirituality

Saturday 23 June 2007



**radiance**

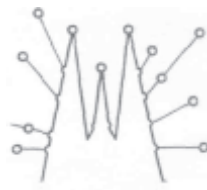
spiritual fair: Christian feast  
lichfield cathedral

Saturday 23rd June 2007

**LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL**

10.30am - 4.00pm

**Workshops**



**radiance**

spiritual fair: Christian feast  
lichfield cathedral

Saturday 23rd June 2007

Seminars led by Rev David Runcorn,

Bishop Gordon Mursell, Dr Jane Gledhill, Mr Andrew Baker

Keynote address by Rev Dr Kenneth Leech

We, at Christ Church, have supported Feba Radio for many years, both through our giving and our prayers, but what does Feba Radio do? The following, taken from the Feba Radio web-site, gives us an insight into their work. Feba aims to bring the Good News to people in a language they understand.

We take the radio for granted as we do all the means of communication available to us in the West. Our radios are companionable, but not essential, often burbling away in the background while we do something else. This is in contrast to so many Feba listeners. Way out of reach of other forms of communication, they see radio as a prized possession – a link with the wider world.

Radio is good at giving people information and offering choices. It doesn't matter if someone can't read – they can listen. Isolated people, who are unlikely ever to meet a Christian, can tune in and hear. In places where Christianity is opposed or forbidden, radio is a friendly way to help curious people in their search for truth.

Feba broadcasts the Good News of Jesus in more than 60 languages to audiences in Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

## **What is being broadcast?**

National Christians make most of the programmes that are broadcast to their countries. Because the producers share the same language and culture as their audience, they are able to appreciate the same values and traditions.

The Good News is broadcast in lots of ways: Bible teaching, testimonies, drama, discussion, praise and worship. There is world and local news with Christian comment on it. Other programmes tackle local issues: drink, drugs, violence, AIDS, health care and agriculture.

Whatever the language broadcast, trained correspondence counsellors reply to listeners' letters. This letter was written by an Afghan refugee –

‘One day I heard the Sound of Life’ programme on the radio. I was so happy that I swelled with joy. My wife asked me, what are you excited about? I told her that what I had searched for for a long time is Christianity. I took the address and sent a letter. When I received a reply, and read the book “What is Christianity”, the heavy burden that always was with me disappeared. Then I came to know the Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ, who is the only Son of God, the Saviour of everyone who believes in Him.’

*(continued on next page)*

Apart from letters, listeners contact staff by phone, fax and e-mail. Some even take the time to visit in person.

Feba has broadcasting and coordination centres in Africa, South Asia and the Middle East as well as in the UK. They work together to reach the unreached with the Gospel, penetrating areas torn apart by war or ravaged by natural disaster. The heart of Feba's ministry is to bring the Good News of Jesus to people in a language they understand. Every year thousands of hours of programmes do just that. They can't do it alone. They need our financial and prayer support.

(If you would like to know more about Feba Radio's work, see their website: [www.feba.org.uk](http://www.feba.org.uk))  
Cecilia Wilding

---

## **The Wedding of Rachel Morray and Paul Swinson**

It was a great pleasure for the Flower Guild to arrange the flowers for Rachel and Paul's wedding on Saturday 31st March. It was a lovely day, the Bride, Bridesmaids and the Mums all looked beautiful.

A group of very small children from Rachel's school sang two songs and one pupil played the flute and this I'm sure made the day extra special for Rachel and Paul. The singing and the resounding 'Amen' from the children brought a smile and tear to many of the guests. I'm sure that everyone at Christ Church who knows Rachel and Paul wish them many years of good health and happiness together.

Marylyn Hillman

---

Chris and I would like to say thank you to all our friends at Christ Church, who on the day made Rachel and Paul's wedding so fantastic.

Thank you Phil, who as usual made things run smoothly, especially the sound system.

Thank you Marylyn for making the church so beautiful with the flowers. Thank you Peter for playing the organ and making the service complete. A special thank you to Paul who made the whole service meaningful and memorable to all of us, especially Paul and Rachel.

We have had many comments from friends and family, telling us what a lovely wedding service it was, but also what a lovely welcoming church with a really good atmosphere of fellowship. We even had great weather!

Chris and Sandra

## Michelle Parry

---

Many of our church congregation have been praying over the last 15 months for Michelle Parry and her family. In December 2005, 20 year old Michelle developed a very serious auto immune disease which meant she was admitted to intensive care at Southampton hospital. She then unfortunately became one of the longest serving patients in intensive care at the hospital. She recovered many times from seemingly impossible situations and had recently grown stronger and was beginning to walk again.

Sadly she died on the Tuesday of this Easter when she seemed to be recovering from yet another large operation to enable her to eat again, rather than be drip fed. Her parents had only just arrived at Spring Harvest in Minehead when the hospital rang and arranged for a police escort back at high speed to Southampton so that they could be at her bedside before she died from her sixth bout of pneumonia.

Michelle had an extremely strong faith and was able to witness to many people by the way she reacted to her illness. Her response to her illness challenged many people and united many in prayer including those in Stone, who had never met her.

Thank you for your prayers over the last 16 months and please continue to pray for her family. Her father is a Baptist minister in Southampton and her sister is the leading vocalist in a worship band for young teenagers. She also had a young brother of 9 years old. It will be very difficult for them to continue their ministry in the next few months and yet to allow themselves time to grieve.

Jan Butterworth

---

## A Thank You for Prayers

Dear Everyone,

Thank you so much for all the prayers and cards and support before, during and after my back operation. I really felt uplifted and in God's care throughout. Now after my convalescence I am finally back at work I feel almost back to normal!

Mary Holden

## Mini Keswick heads for a first in Lichfield

---

A CHRISTIAN convention that annually attracts thousands of people of all ages and denominations to three weeks of bible-based activities in the Lake District, is supporting a three-day mini convention in Lichfield. 'Keswick in Lichfield', sponsored by Churches Together in Lichfield & District, will take place at the Wade Street church and hall complex over the weekend Friday 5 - Sunday 7 October 2007. Under the title of 'Being Human, Being Church', the event will be opened on the Friday evening by the Bishop of Lichfield, the Rt Revd Jonathan Gledhill, with an opening address by the chairman of Keswick Ministries and Honorary Canon of Carlisle, Peter Maiden. The main speaker on Saturday and Sunday will be Keswick regular Steve Brady, who was born in Liverpool, where he was converted in his teens through a mixture of Bible reading and Everton Football Club. He has been in full time Christian ministry for over 25 years, and is now principal of Moorlands College.

With a capacity of 600, organisers are expecting the 'sold out' signs to go up, and are hoping that donations and retiring collections will meet the expected £1500 costs. Admission will be by ticket, available free of charge. It was in 2003 that the trustees of the Keswick convention took the decision to use the excellent Bible teaching more widely - both nationally and internationally. It is hoped that Keswick in Lichfield will become an annual event, and Jonathan Lamb, who is associated with All Souls Langham Place has already been confirmed as the speaker for 2008.

---

## Little Fishes – Friday Toddler Group – Cecilia Wilding

Little Fishes meets on Fridays from 11.00am to 1.30pm. It is a joint venture with the Baptist Church. Our numbers have increased gradually over the months and we now have an average of 18 children and 16 adults attending each week. Some of the children attend after morning school and one before afternoon school. These will be leaving us at the end of the summer term to go to full-time school in the autumn. We will miss them.

The first hour of Little Fishes is play-time for the children and chat time for the adults. Refreshments are provided. The children and parents enjoy a variety of craft activities at this time – some simple, and some quite ambitious prepared for us by Jacqui Thomas, to whom many thanks. At around 12.00pm we have a Bible story followed by singing a variety of nursery and Christian children's songs. Then we have lunch together, the children sitting round little tables with parents close-by to supervise proceedings. After lunch there's more time for the children to play and adults to chat before we pack up and make our way home. There are often opportunities to chat with parents about the things that really matter to them, and sometimes we can share our faith.

*(continued on next page)*

Parents' comments:

Joanne writes – ‘What I like about Little Fishes:

It is a time for children to play and parents to unwind in a safe and welcoming environment. I especially like the mixture of structured and unstructured time, the Bible craft activity and lesson, followed by a sociable lunch!’

Carol writes – ‘Christ Church Little Fishes playgroup is a safe, clean and relaxed environment for children from birth up to five years of age. Toys are lovely and well cared for. Craft is a great opportunity to spend time doing activities with your child without having to think yourself about what to do, where to do it and the impending mess! all of which affect your decisions and creativity at home! For parents, it provides a lifeline! Someone to make you a cup of tea and ask you how you are while you play with your toddler and feed your newborn all at the same time. There are few places like this. Christian faith is ever present, but never judged, and the children love the Bible stories, sing songs of children’s favourites and opportunity to sit at little tables and chairs afterwards for a pack lunch all together. All of this and a drink and biscuit for children and Cecilia’s home cooking of soup and/or biscuits. I will miss Fridays when it’s time for school!’

Moira writes – ‘I have been coming to ‘Little Fishes’ playgroup over the last four years with my two daughters (now 4½yrs and two) Both girls have always enjoyed the friendly and welcoming atmosphere, activities and play options. The Centre is warm, comfortable and large enough to cater for active play. All under 5s are well catered for, with good facilities for babies as well as the older ones. Tea, juice and biscuits are also on offer!’

Alison, Cath, Angela & Laura listed what they appreciate about Little Fishes:

Sociable	Warm & friendly
Creative opportunities	Home-made soup!!
Value for money	Excellent helpers and staff!
Enjoyable picnic lunches	

Catherine appreciates having other mums to talk to, singing songs that are fun but also about Jesus, and says “I think the Biblical stories portray a good message for children and they learn good principles for life.”

Gaye appreciates fellowship and having a good chat with other mums and seeing her child happily playing with other children.

So, that’s what Little Fishes is like! If you have a baby or toddler and are able to come on a Friday, why not come and see what it’s like? You would be very, very welcome. For further information, contact Cecilia via the Parish Office – Tel:811990 or at home – Tel: 817987.



The PCC met on Monday 5 March 2007 and the following matters were reported on, discussed and/or decided.

- The Riding Lights Theatre Company will be putting on a production on Monday 26 November. Further details will be announced as they become available.
- Representatives are being sought to attend the Churches Together in Stone meetings. If you feel able to carry out this role, please speak to a member of the PCC.
- A midi church conference, entitled 'Going for Growth', is to take place at Christ Church on Saturday 30 June with churches from the diocese being invited.
- Draft end of year accounts for 2006 were presented and expenditure on the church centre was agreed to be taken from the legacy.
- Technology issues have been resolved. Office e-mail has now stabilised. The photocopier is to be upgraded. Computer services are to be maintained by a contract from Cornerstone Systems and the church sound system, including improved speakers in the church centre, is to be upgraded.
- Guidelines are to be drawn up for those leading the prayers for the sick.
- Children's activities continue to be well attended. Around 40 children took part in the pancake party. A Good Friday craft session and Easter holiday club are being prepared.
- More volunteers were requested to help in running the Tuesday night Youth Club. If you feel able to carry out this role, please speak to Tom Nash.
- Fire risk assessments need to be carried out to comply with the new Fire Safety Law. The Wardens are seeking a way forward with this.

The next PCC meeting is on Wednesday 23 May 2007.

# FROM THE REGISTERS

---

## BAPTISM

1st April Lola Zoe Hooker

## FUNERAL

26th March Lesley Noel Mardling Age 87

## WEDDING

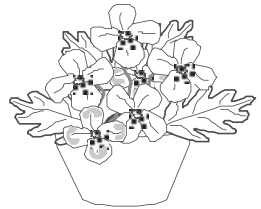
31st March 1:30pm Rachel Morray and Paul Swinson

## SIDESPERSIONS FOR MAY

6th May S. Hallam, T. MacFarlane, M. Hutchinson, B. Hutchinson  
 13th May C. Wilding, G. Holden, A. West, V. Ledward  
 20th May D. Wilson, A. Greer, D. Pickles, J. Rowlands  
 27th May P. Hipkiss, P. Tunstall, S. Hallam, T. MacFarlane

## FLOWER ROTA

6th May Mrs M. Massey  
 13th May Mrs M. Hutchinson  
 20th May Mrs G. Martin  
 27th May Mrs B. Thornicroft



## ROADS FOR PRAYER

Please pray for people living in these streets of our parish

### 6th May

The Avenue  
 Trent Road  
 Tunley Street  
 Trinity Drive

### 13th May

Airdale Grove  
 Airdale Road  
 Airdale Spinney  
 Cross Street

### 20th May

Nicholls Lane  
 Old Road  
 Old Road Close  
 Oulton Cross  
 Lotus Court

### 27th May

Oulton Road  
 Oulton Mews  
 Princes Street  
 Queens Square  
 York Street



<b>Deanery Synod Reps</b>	Mrs S Hallam, Mr I Hawley, Mr D. Rowlands	
<b>P.C.C. Members</b>	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	
<b>Secretary</b>	Jacqueline Abrahams.....	817020
<b>Treasurer</b>	Kevin Reynolds.....	851595
<b>Envelopes, Gift Aid</b>	Nesta Challinor	

## GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

<b>Climbers 3-7 years</b>	Sandra Morray.....	286093
<b>Explorers 7-11 years</b>	Estella Woodhead.....	761659
<b>Pathfinders 11-14 years</b>	Enid Bell.....	815775
<b>Cornerstone Bible Study</b>	Thomas Nash.....	286551
<b>Youth Group Yr9 upwards</b>	Thomas Nash.....	286551
<b>Banner Group</b>	Jeanette Rowlands.....	816713
<b>Church Missionary Boxes</b>	Cecilia Wilding.....	817987
<b>Flower Guild</b>	Marylyn Hillman.....	815936
<b>Men's Fellowship</b>	Mike Thompson.....	813712
<b>Missions Secretary</b>	Cecilia Wilding.....	817987
<b>Prayer Group</b>	Jeanette Rowlands.....	816713
<b>Parents &amp; Toddlers</b> (Mon 9.30 – 11.15am)	Sandra Morray.....	286093
<b>Friday "Little Fishes"</b> (Fri 11am – 1.30pm)	Cecilia Wilding.....	817987

## THE MAGAZINE TEAM

<b>Mission News&amp; Prayer Diary</b>	Cecilia Wilding	817987
<b>Please send material for the magazine to</b>		
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](http://www.biblegateway.com) and we recommend a modern translation e.g. the New International Version or English Standard Version).

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

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

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

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

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

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

---

### 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:

- Tue 1<sup>st</sup> A letter entitled 'God hears the cries of the oppressed', written by nine Catholic Bishops, has been pinned up in churches throughout **Zimbabwe**. Pray that God will continue to give individual Christians and the church the courage to challenge the Mugabe regime in the face of severe reprisals. Pray also that the leaders of neighbouring countries will bring firm political pressure to bear.
- Wed 2<sup>nd</sup> **Colombia** has overtaken Cambodia as the world's most heavily land-mined country. The country has suffered 50 years of conflict and two million people have become refugees. Pray for the victims of landmines and the homeless, for Tearfund partners and the churches as they press for justice and serve those affected by the conflict, and for the safety of staff.
- Thu 3<sup>rd</sup> Pray for Tearfund partner Cord, working in four camps in **Chad** for refugees from Darfur. They are providing health assistance and organising games and literacy classes for the children. Pray for protection for the refugees, especially the young and old. Relationships are deteriorating between Chad and Sudan as cross-border violence has erupted. Pray that the Chadian government will allow a UN force in the country, as urged by Amnesty International.
- Fri 4<sup>th</sup> **Afghanistan** has been affected by floods and avalanches recently; a third of the country has been hit. Give thanks that the UN food programme has been able to distribute food to help 75,000 people. Tearfund relief teams have been able to continue their work in Kandahar, give thanks for good relationships with local people and village elders which increase security for the staff. Pray for the long-term task of rebuilding the country.
- Sat 5<sup>th</sup> Elections were held in **Nigeria** last month; pray for results which will be accepted, and that conditions will improve for the people, and that they will begin to benefit from the oil wealth. Pray that Tearfund partners will be able to continue their work, bringing water, sanitation, healthcare and HIV education to poor communities.

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

We received an email Update from the Lees in March giving recent news and prayer requests about the Jigsaw Kids Ministries (*copy in the red folder under the Overseas Mission notice board in the Centre*) and Kate sent some up-to-date news in mid-April.

- Sun 6<sup>th</sup> Praise God that the father of the street family they have been helping has settled down to work for his family (wife and seven children) and has stopped taking drugs. Pray for long-term work for the dad and for the health of their new-born baby who is at risk of malnutrition.

- Mon 7<sup>th</sup> Pray for their new secretary, Jogie, who is finding the distance she travels to work very difficult. Pray for an adequate solution to this.
- Tue 8<sup>th</sup> Pray for a new centre for the Visayas area where they are in very cramped, poorly-ventilated premises at present. They are looking for new premises to rent, or possibly to buy. Pray that they will soon find the right place at the right price.
- Wed 9<sup>th</sup> Since the beginning of March, they have implemented a number of changes within Jigsaw Ministries to enable some of the kids workers to take on management roles. This has been going really well and people have really stepped up to the challenge. Pray for this new approach.
- Thu 10<sup>th</sup> They wrote in their e-mail – “The work is ever present and there always seems an email to write, a person to see, some paperwork unfinished, but then at least we’re not bored. However, the intensity of the job, particularly for Tim, is immense and quality time off is really a necessity.”

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

We received the April edition of ‘Humphreys News’ recently (*copy in red folder*) which included news and prayer requests, and also a more recent update. The family are coming home this summer – Tracy, Steffan and Jonny returning early August, Ben staying put for his gap year, and Owen staying behind until October to do deputation and to help Ben settle into life in the UK.

- Fri 11<sup>th</sup> The family went on holiday to the coast at Easter half-term and now Ben is doing his A Levels. Pray for guidance in revision and clear thinking in the exam room. Ben does not find study easy!.
- Sat 12<sup>th</sup> It is a stressful time for staff and students alike over this exam time. Pray for - strength for Tracy and her Art students, that the students will do well, and that their work, which has to be sent back to the UK for marking will arrive safely and undamaged.
- Sun 13<sup>th</sup> Steffan is doing his first real GCSE in Religious Studies this year. Due to his dyslexia, he needs help analysing questions and answering logically. His asthma can also give him problems at this time of year. Pray for him.
- Mon 14<sup>th</sup> Praise God that Jonny has made two new friends who are less likely to get him into trouble. His year group seems to have more than their fair share of trouble. Jonny is growing in maturity and confidence. Pray for him.
- Tue 15<sup>th</sup> Pray for rain. The School is running out of water and the monsoon is not due until June. Pray too for their UK summer holiday arrangements.

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

We have no recent news from the Baron family since their March Update. However some of their last month's prayer items are ongoing.

- Wed 16<sup>th</sup> Pray for Dagmar, for the strength and wisdom she needs to fulfil her additional duties as well as her normal ones. Last term she became very over-tired and prone to infections. Pray for her health this term.
- Thu 17<sup>th</sup> 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.
- Fri 18<sup>th</sup> Pray for Ralph and those in his department as they seek to make the School's computer network more reliable and less prone to failure.
- Sat 19<sup>th</sup> Whereas Helen seems to be doing OK at law studies in Paris, Ralph and Dagmar are very concerned about Sarah who is facing difficulties with her studies. Dagmar was thinking of coming back to the UK briefly at Easter to support Helen and help make any decisions, and she may well return in the summer break as well. Pray for Sarah for a resolution of her problems and for safe travel for Dagmar and wisdom as to how to help.
- Sun 20<sup>th</sup> They have recommenced Bible studies on "Searching Issues" with A Level students. Pray for Ralph & Dagmar as they lead and that students may grow in their knowledge of Jesus and how to share their faith.

**REBECCA – PAKISTAN**

Rebecca wrote on 21<sup>st</sup> April – "I have been settled back here for a couple of months now. I am continuing to work at my school; it looks as though this may continue for some more time. I am preparing to have a short term volunteer staying with me who will be arriving up here in June.

- Mon 21<sup>st</sup> Give thanks for good relationships with teachers and students at the school.
- Tue 22<sup>nd</sup> Please pray for the short term volunteer who is coming, for a good experience for her.
- Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> Please continue to ask for peace and stability in this region."

**STEPHEN & TABITA BELL, Sheona, Joshua & Benjamin – CROATIA**

Stephen & Tabita are involved in a church-planting ministry in Zagreb, Croatia.

- Thu 24<sup>th</sup> The Dubrava church now has about 40 adults and 15 young people and children attending regularly and 20 attending a mid-week meeting. Stephen asks us to give thanks that so many people have committed themselves to attending the new church regularly.
- Fri 25<sup>th</sup> Several people attend the church regularly but are not yet Christians. Stephen asks us to pray that Marijan, Betty, and Ivan will become Christians. Please pray for more young families to join the church.
- Sat 26<sup>th</sup> Please pray also for Pentecost Tent Evangelism events to be held on 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> May.
- Sun 27<sup>th</sup> Pray for the youth in their community (around Sesvete and Dubrava) to have a hope and a future.  
Also, please pray for Peter, the Pastor of their ‘mother church’, and his family. He has leukaemia and is seriously ill.
- Mon 28<sup>th</sup> Stephen has been visiting some other ECM-sponsored churches in the Balkans. He asks us to pray that the church in Eastern Serbia, led by Branko and Rada, will be able to grow and take on new work. Plans include the setting up of a Christian campsite and a drugs rehab clinic.

**JONATHAN & ROBINAH BEESIGOMWE – BOTSWANA**

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

- Tue 29<sup>th</sup> Please pray for the new Bows and Arrows Ministry (Jonathan & Robinah’s organisation), that families and young people in Botswana and Zimbabwe will be helped to live better lives. The divorce rate is very high and Jonathan asks for our prayers that young parents will meet with Jesus.
- Wed 30<sup>th</sup> Please pray for students and other young people in Gabarona (capital of Botswana). There are many who are poor, and the effect of AIDS has been terrible in many families. Especially pray that Jonathan & Robinah, together with other church groups, will help young people to come to know Jesus and find strength to overcome these problems.
- Thu 31<sup>st</sup> Please continue to pray for Elijah, studying away from the rest of the family. Help him to keep going despite having very little money.