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Please get your contributions for the December magazine to the editor by Friday 18th November.

As well as a bigger **Kidz Korner** this month, we have a new feature, **Off the Wall**, for your views on anything loosely related to the Parish. It's your space - so use it!
Ed.

‘Kidz Korner’ new pull-out section!

Look for the new, bigger ‘Korner’ in the middle of this magazine. We look forward to your comments and contributions!

Cover Story

If you didn't find the houses in last month's cover picture, they are in North Esk Street. This month's view is one that we should all recognise as we mark Remembrance Day.

Christ Church on the Internet

Parish website: www.lichfield.anglican.org/stoke/stone/stonecc

Parish Office email: christchurchcentre@pgen.net

Magazine contributions: christchurch_mag@yahoo.co.uk

November

2005

Tu	1	9.30 am	Assembly at Christ Church First School
		11.30 am	Fraternal Meeting
		12.30 pm	Seekers Club at Christ Church Middle School
We	2	2.00 pm	Mothers' Union - Speaker: Angela Webb, "The story behind Christmas cards"
Fr	4	7.00 pm	Rock Café for young people in the Centre
Sa	5	8.30 am	Prayers followed at 9.00 am by Breakfast

Su	6	3 Before Advent	
		9.15 am Parish Communion	Sermon text: Isaiah 1: "God sighs"
		6.00 pm Evening Prayer	Sermon text: Philippians 3:1-11 "Profit or loss"

Tu	8	9.30 am	Assembly at Christ Church First School
		12.30 am	Seekers Club at Christ Church Middle School

Th	10	10.30 am	Holy Communion in church
		11.30 am	Holy Communion at St Mary's Home
		7.30 pm	20s' Growth Group a 27 Oulton Road

Fr	11	7.00 pm	Rock Café for young people in the Centre
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Su	13	2 Before Advent - Remembrance Sunday	
		10.45 am Assemble at the War Memorial	
		11.00 am Remembrance Service at the War Memorial	
		11.30 am Town Service in Christ Church	Sermon text: Isaiah 2:1-5 "peace at the last"
		6.00 pm Parish Communion	Sermon text: Philippians 3:12-21 "pressing on"

Fr	18	7.00 pm	Rock Café for young people in the Centre
		7.30 pm	Ladies Dessert and Coffee Evening in Oulton Village Hall Speaker: Mr Vijay Menon

Sa	19	8.00 am	Men's Breakfast – Speaker: Mr Vijay Menon
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Su	20	Christ the King	
		9.15 am Parish Communion	Sermon text: Isaiah 3:16-4:6 "haughty or holy"
		6.00 pm Evening Prayer	Sermon text: Philippians 4:2-9 "Firm in the Lord"

*Blessed are those whose way is blameless
Who walk in the Law of the Lord.
Psalm 119:1*

Tu	22	9.30 am	Assembly at Christ Church First School
		12.30 am	Seekers Club at Christ Church Middle School
We	23	7.30 pm	PCC Meeting
Th	24	10.30 am	Holy Communion in church
		11.30 am	Holy Communion at Oulton Abbey
		7.30 pm	20s' Growth Group a 27 Oulton Road
Fr	25	7.00 pm	Rock Café for young people in the Centre
Su	27	Advent	
		9.15 am	Family Service Sermon text: Isaiah 5:1-7 "sour grapes"
		6.00 pm	Parish Communion Sermon text: Philippians 4:10-23 "contented"
Tu	29	12.30 am	Seekers Club at Christ Church Middle School

Gospel Rocky and the Rocky Kids in Space

★ **Queen's Theatre, Burslem 9th - 13th November** ★

A Gospel panto for all the family. Don't miss it!

For further details see the notice by the door in Christ Church Centre.

The following Activities take place every week in the centre during school term time:

Monday Toddlers **9.30 am**

Friday Little Fishes **11.00 am**

Activities for children and young people take place in the centre during the Sunday morning service each Sunday (except on the fourth Sunday of the month, which is family service):

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

All children are welcome



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Despised and rejected

The media have left us reeling. We've been shocked to hear the news of the earthquake in Pakistan, which has caused huge destruction of life in the north and in neighbouring India and Afghanistan. It is heart rending to hear about aid eventually arriving for the survivors who are now starving as well as grieving. It is not surprising that the public response has been one of generosity so soon after appeals towards the relief of other communities affected by natural disasters. Yet there are knock-on effects of the earthquake on the Christian minority.

In Pakistan it is Christians who are a despised minority and endure discrimination in many forms. They are the ones who are likely to be relegated to the back of the queue when practical aid is being distributed. This was the case both at the time of the Indian earthquake of January 2001 and the Tsunami of December 2004. When the USA attacked Afghanistan in late 2001, Afghan refugees poured into Pakistan and took the jobs of the Pakistani Christians, leaving them destitute. There is an evident link between disasters and discrimination against Christians.

Jesus reminds his followers of a precious truth: *"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you"* (Matthew 5v11-

12). Jesus calls us to follow him armed with such promises. It is our duty to remember our persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ and to prepare ourselves for the day when we too may have to face it.



My hope is that as we attend to regular public and private Bible reading and prayer we will grow in Christian maturity. For, as the season of Advent reminds us, the Lord Jesus will one day return for his faithful people.

Paul Kingman

Christ Church First School News

October began with our traditional Harvest Thanksgiving. Reception children reminded us of the farmers' work - a delightful performance in song and movement! Years 1 and 2 described the harvest of the field in song and narrative. Meanwhile Years 3 and 4 have been extending their Geography skills and gave us some facts about where our food originates from. Did you know that Israeli potatoes take 6 months to travel to England?

To support their studies they did some field work, the "field" in this case being Mr. Hodson's allotment! They were amazed at all the different vegetables which he had grown and marvelled at the wonderful transformation from seed to vegetable. Mr Hodson very kindly donated some vegetables to help the children with their presentation, for which we thank him. In particular he gave us the biggest onion anyone had ever seen! All the food which our families donated has been taken to the Salvation Army to help people in need locally.

On the afternoon of Thursday October 13th we were visited by a bright red double-decker London Bus! It was the publicity bus for Operation Christmas Child, a charity set up 9 years ago to send gifts to needy children in Eastern Europe. We have taken part in this for many years and we were chosen to receive a visit to launch the campaign in this area.

We were able to climb on and see all the things which we can include in the boxes and view lots of photographs and displays about the children who will receive them. Then Sue Johnson, Steve Robinson (Area representatives) and Dave Cooke led the whole school in Worship. Dave is the man who began Operation Christmas Child in England, being moved when on a visit to Russia he met some of the street children living under bridges. Now the charity sends thousands of boxes each Christmas. As a school family, we share the preparation of boxes and value the opportunity to bring happiness to children whose expectations are so different to our own. We call it "a box of love". Anyone wishing to prepare a box or to donate any items to include in a box can have details from our Administration Officer Mrs Smith, Office telephone number 354125.

By December, our boxes will be ready for our Nativity Service, as we remember and pray for our friends so far away who will receive them. The following day, Mrs Johnson will arrive in a huge van and we will wave as the special presents begin the first stage of their long journey.

Janet Booth

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Remembering Les Greer

Friends and family at Christ Church,

Thank you so much for all the love and support that was shown to us, during Les's illness and particularly for your help and support in providing such a special day on the day of the funeral. It has been a long and painful journey in many ways, but we feel we have achieved so much and have so many special memories to be thankful for. Les will never be forgotten, his special qualities will remain in all the lives he touched.

Thank you once again for your love and support.

Alison

Music Tribute Night

in aid of the Douglas McMillan Hospice.

&

There will be a



Dinner and Dance Night

at Baden Hall, Eccleshall



Friday 18th November 7.30 - 1 am.

Live band, hog roast, late bar and entertainments.

All proceeds will go to the Douglas McMillan Hospice, where Les was cared for, as a 'Thank You' for all the wonderful support and nursing care.

Tickets £20:00

Please contact **Alison Greer** on **01785 814732** or the **Project office** on **01785 818877** for more details and tickets.

Please come along and support this event.

Send a Cow

For the past three years the Mothers' Union members with the help of a few of our congregation have contributed to the "Send a Cow" scheme instead of handing out personal Christmas Cards.



If you would like to join us in supporting this work, please speak to **Audrey Hayward**. She hopes to send any contributions the first week in December.



Prison Fellowship and Prisoner's week

Some of you may have heard of Prison Fellowship, others not. PF, as it is known to members, is a Christian organisation set up to care, support and pray for prisoners, ex-prisoners and their families. They also pray for victims of crime and prison workers.

I became a member shortly after Peter was arrested. The love and support from the other members of the group I belonged to helped greatly whilst Peter was in prison, and when he was first released. It was also the **ONLY** organisation that provided practical help to both of us. With three prisons in a 10 mile radius of Christchurch, many families living in the Stone area have connections either through work or family.

This year, **Prisoner's week** takes place from **November 20th to 26th** and the theme is based on Matt 25:31-46 'the least of these' – the mentally ill, women, sex offenders, victims of bullies, prisoner's families and victims of crime.

There are many people in our prisons who are mentally ill, some as a result of their incarceration, but a great many more who committed their crimes whilst ill. Women prisoners have a hard time, as they are generally the mother and homemaker and are separated from their children, with all the attendant worries that brings. Sex offenders usually have to go on 'rule 43' (voluntary segregation) for their own protection inside and many first time inmates experience bullying from older, more hardened prisoners. Prisoner's families are the innocent victims of crime – they 'serve the sentence on the outside', often lacking a breadwinner, sometimes losing their home and always dealing with the stigma of being related to a prisoner. Lastly, the victims of crime have their problems as they come to terms with the violation they feel in their life post crime, the fear of anyone who resembles the perpetrator (if they were seen), or of being in similar places/situations.

All these people are affected adversely by our criminal justice system and need our prayers. Please pray for them particularly in prisoner's week, but if you can find other times to add them to your prayer list, please do.

If you would like further information about PF, see **Lol Barnes**.



Thank You

Mary and Jeanette would like to thank all who came and supported the wonderful 'Jewellery Evening' in aid of the Christ Church Youth Worker Fund at the Holdens'. We raised £135.



CMS Boxes



Boxes are now due for emptying.

Please give your box either to **Barbara Ewart** or to one of the Church Wardens. Please do not leave it at the back of church!

Many Thanks.

Barbara Walton Singers



with Philip Scriven
Organist, Lichfield Cathedral

A concert of Choral and Organ Classics

Including music by Handel, Parry, Brahms and Widor

Saturday 19th November 7.30 pm
St Paul's Church Newcastle-under-Lyme

Tickets £8 and £2 (students)
from **Eileen Cook** or **Liz Mason**

Dave and Lois *would like to thank everyone at Christ Church for their good wishes, prayers, cards and presents for their marriage. We have been overwhelmed with everyone's kindness. We had a great day, and are happily settled into our new home in Lancaster.*



From the Mission Field

Dominic, Clare and Erica

Hebron School, South India

I am very busy planning for the next schemes of work with the help of Dominic. We spent much of our half-term break writing schemes and sorting out boxes of jumbled up Lego for a control project. I am now quite proficient at cutting, shaping and joining wood. Next is plastics, electronics and control.

Dominic is working on the School and alumni websites amongst other computer things. He is due to preach on Hezekiah on 23rd October. I have got involved with the children's focussed service at Union Church and have led a service. My wardrobe is looking more Indian and I often wear salwa camise with my dupitor (long top, baggy trousers and scarf). My next mission is to get a sari. I also intend to buy Mum a sari for when she visits. It will be good fun working out how to wear it.



Please pray: that Erica will develop good friendships with the few young children on site; that Dominic will be able to balance his time between being Erica's primary carer and his role as Systems Administrator and for his re-entry to the classroom; that Clare will be able to get up to speed with the next Technology projects, and for her input to the C.J. club at Union Church

"After the Earthquake"

Rebecca in Pakistan

There was a loud blast and then the earth opened up, the mountains tore apart and our houses just sank into the earth and collapsed...for about three hours darkness spread. We knew the end was here..it was the Day of Judgement. But then we were still alive.

These are the words of one man who survived the earthquake in Pakistan. The death toll is estimated at 50 000; it is likely that only a fraction of the affected areas have yet been reached. Millions of people are homeless and facing the onset of winter in the mountains.

Eyewitness reports tell of the mountains around Murree literally shaking. There is one certainty: since the day the mountains moved, Pakistan will never be the same again. One story I heard told of a little boy who wandered out of his classroom just before the earthquake struck. He returned to find himself alone amid the devastation. For those whose village was flattened, or who lost all their relatives or schoolmates, this day they will live with for the rest of their lives.

↵ God worried that Adam would always be lost in the garden because men hate to ask for directions.

— God knew that Adam would one day need someone to hand him the TV remote. (Men don't want to see what's **on** television, they want to see **what else** is on!)

| Adam would never buy a new fig leaf when his wore out and would therefore need Eve to get one for him.

... Adam would never make a doctor's appointment for himself.

≈ Adam would never remember which day was Bin day.

≡ If the world was to be populated, men would never be able to handle childbearing.

≠ As "Keeper of the Garden," Adam would never remember where he put his tools.

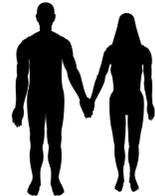
÷ The scripture account of creation shows Adam needed someone to blame his troubles on when God caught him hiding in the garden.

● As the Bible says, "It is not good for man to be alone!"

∂ When God finished the creation of Adam, He stepped back, scratched His head and said, "I can do better than that."

It's interesting that the only time that God said, "It is not good" during His creation was when man was alone.

"Thank you, Lord, for your wisdom in creating such a perfect complement to man. Thank you for the gift of companionship and love. Teach us to treasure this gift, and to treasure the partners that you have given us. Amen."



If you're married, take a moment today to remind your wife or husband how much she/he means to you. They never get tired of hearing it!



Please pray for Pakistan, for God's hand upon all who are caught up in the aftermath of this disaster, and for a rebuilding of broken walls and lives.

Pray for those in authority, that they would make wise decisions; that relief administrators and co-ordinators would be raised up so that the aid which is flooding in can be shared effectively.

Thank God that he has placed His people in NGOs and hospitals in the middle of the relief effort and in the right place to help; that they are His hands and feet wherever they go and whatever work they are involved in.

Pray for those involved in strategies for long term planning, rebuilding and rehabilitating, which will need to continue for years to come.

Who are . . . CPAS?

We're an Anglican mission agency whose focus is on work in the UK and Ireland. CPAS was founded in 1836 as a response to the massive social change brought by the Industrial Revolution. Small village churches found themselves swamped by the rapidly expanding cities and were at a loss to know how to cope with the new urban poor.

*Rev. Philip Mounstephen,
CPAS Head of Ministry and
Acting General-Director,
gives us an answer.*

The society was set up to resource these churches by giving them grants to employ extra staff. The aim was simple - that the gospel should be taken "to every man's door, with a single eye to the glory of God."

The work of CPAS has developed, but the vision of our founders burns strongly in us. Like them, we believe strongly in the work of the local church, we want to see the church equipped to cope with rapidly changing social circumstances, and we want to see the gospel find its way to everyone's door.

So what do we actually do? We work in three areas under one vision; we resource churches for leadership, evangelism and youth and children's ministry.



Leadership This includes the very highly regarded Arrow programme for younger Christian leaders, 'You and Ministry' conferences encouraging people to consider ordained ministry, and patronage responsibility (individually or shared) for over 500 benefices.

Evangelism We have a team of gifted people who train local churches through our 'Lost for Words' course, give advice on developing a strategy for outreach, help support a number of 'Fresh Expressions' of church, and promote our acclaimed evangelistic course 'Start!'.

Youth and children's ministry We have developed 'The Hub', a whole new package for churches which includes a web-based shop for resourcing hard pressed leaders and an annual training tour. Our Ventures and Falcon Camps programme will see around 5000 young people involved annually in residential holiday camps.

And that one vision I spoke of? It's a vision for church as we believe God intends it to be, a church in which people of all ages feel they have a valued place.

PCC News

- **The church roof repair** is nearing completion, after which the scaffolding will be dismantled.

The PCC met on Monday 17th October 2005 and the following matters were reported on, discussed and/or decided.

- **The Boaters' Christian Fellowship visit to Stone** was

judged by the boaters to be one of the best places they stayed. We were disappointed that few people attended who were not already connected to a church, except in the case of the Youth Event when 60+ young people attended. Despite our best efforts to advertise the events, the comment was heard – “We did not know that it was happening.”

- It was announced that the next **Men's Breakfast** is to be on **Saturday 19th November 2005** preceded by a **Ladies' Evening** on **Friday 18th November 2005** – Speaker Vijay Menon.

- **Next Year's Lent Course** is to follow the 'Discipleship Explored' course. There will be six sessions on Wednesday evenings and two in Sunday Evening Services. Other churches in the town and Deanery are invited.

- The PCC continues discussing its **Mission Action Plan** – that is, defining what God would have us do as a church to reach out to those around who don't yet know Him, and identifying what actions we should take.

- We have a shortfall in our **finances** due in part to the costs of the roof repair. It was decided that an appeal should be launched at the services on 23rd October 2005 to make good this shortfall.

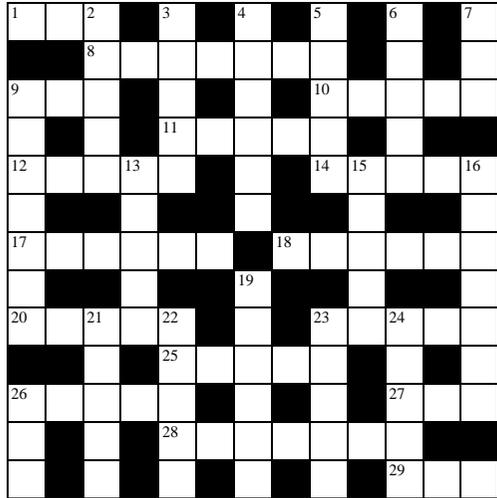
- There is to be a **Light Party** (alternative Halloween Party) for children aged 3-11yrs on Monday 31st October 2005, 5.00-7.00pm in the church and Centre. The PCC agreed to the use of Holiday Club moneys for this event and that church members will help with food.

**The next PCC meeting is on
Wednesday 23rd November 2005.**



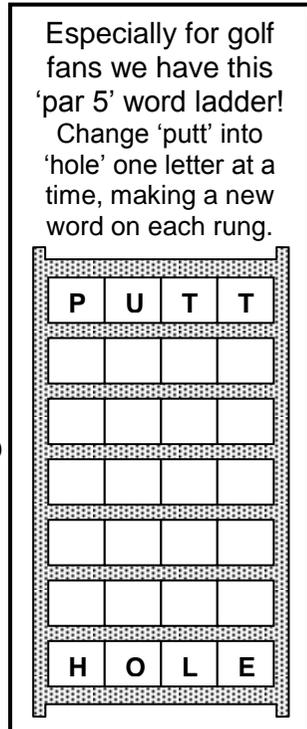
Clues Across

- 1 Pre-tie bringer of cheer. (3)
- 8 Not such a heavy barge. (7)
- 9 Pulse, like it's started. (3)
- 10 Dog in command? Aye, happen! (5)
- 11 Press man teaching office technology by order. (5)
- 12 Old queen takes time to make effort. (5)
- 14 Crew when abundant make light of the job. (5)
- 17 These things happen to a level saint backwards. (6)
- 18 If you are, then you won't solve this! (6)
- 20 Descend without resistance to immerse totally. (5)
- 23 Lady with a record, 'May Safely Graze'? (5)
- 25 Put down? Turn it over! (5)
- 26 A number interpret feelings of doom. (5)
- 27 Musical affectation? (3)
- 28 Note a painter twice by degrees. (7)
- 29&26D Confused director general circles exercise, a most important man! (3, 3)

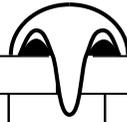


Clues Down

- 2 Could you dine on this S American flower? (5)
- 3 Say it's about time to get the bird. (5)
- 4 First go astray, then point to trouble. (6)
- 5 Monk without hesitation serves up the soup. (5)
- 6 Fruit when ripe can contain a nut. (5)
- 7 Fire wood? It sounds warm and cosy! (3)
- 9 Soft and tender, confused by make believe. (7)
- 13 About 75% of the report will buck things up. (5)
- 15 Scot's not at home, quietly flooded out. (5)
- 16 Returning salesmen take shelter in the overnight train. (7)
- 19 Sid, confused possibly, shows despondency. (6)
- 21 Deliveries on time clearly seen. (5)
- 22 Force with nothing on gives cue for action. (5)
- 23 I, replaced by followers in rising reach river. (5)
- 24 Rubbery sap gives rise to acclaim. (5)
- 26 see 29A



Off the Wall



Wot's all this 'ere?

Retail Therapy

A new shop opens in Stone High Street, and it's . . . a charity shop! Of course we wish the Sue Ryder shop every success, but isn't this one more nail in the coffin of our town centre? Maybe not; have you looked at what you can actually buy in Stone recently? We may have fewer 'real' shops nowadays, but there is still a very wide range of goods on offer - even without our supermarkets.

So first impressions are misleading. Retailing has changed with the big players piling it high and selling it cheap out of town, but there is still room for our local traders. They just have to up their game, be that bit smarter at spotting and using their opportunities. Judging by the effort put into the recent Food Festival, reports of the death of Stone High Street have been greatly exaggerated!

What's it got to do with Christ Church? Well a church has a mission to its community, so it needs to care about that community. That includes supporting **your** town with your custom - like they say, 'use it or lose it'. A lot of people want to write off the church as a dying institution. To prove them wrong, we also need to be a bit smarter and work harder at reaching people. The early church faced a hostile world, but we're here because they stuck to the job of sharing the Gospel. We can moan about the world going to the dogs or we can rise to the challenge. Your call!

One Faith, One Church?

Who are we kidding! We haven't even settled the row over homosexuals before we are into the next one about women bishops. How can we call ourselves 'one' church with such fundamental disagreements within our ranks? The church has to be true to its historic faith. Ordinary believers want clear guidance and a united voice from the top. Yes, faith is a walk into the unknown and discipleship means being always ready to learn, but honest engagement with the world doesn't mean 'anything goes'. Clear guidance isn't bigotry - there is room between the ayatollahs and the airheads! Faith and tolerance must reach an agreement. The church can only be credible when people know where we stand.

*Something to say? Get it off your chest!
Post it on The Wall.*

Streets of Prayer

Please pray this month for all the people living in these streets in our Parish.

6th November
The Crescent
End of Granville Terrace
Millers Gate
Hartley Drive

13th November
Albert Street
Alexandra Street
Arthur Street
Berkeley Street



20th November
Chestnut Grove
Edward Street
Field Terrace
Field House Court
Kent Grove

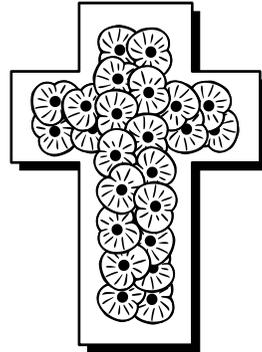
27th November
Meaford Avenue
Mount Avenue
Mount Crescent
Mount Road

Remembrance

Look at these stones and see
On them inscribed,
The names of those who,
For our sake have died.

Hear the accounts
Of pain and grief and tears,
And sorrow, undiminished
Through the passing years

Keep in your heart these things
Lest we forget,
The price of our freedom
Was blood, toil, tears and sweat.



Stand, then, in silence,
Think on these things, and pray,
That future generations
May not have this price to pay

CROSSWORD **Across:** 1 Cup, 8 Lighter, 9 Pea, 10 Occur, 11 Edict, 12 Exert, 14 Hands, 17 Events, 18 Unable, 20 Drown, 23 Sheep, 25 Upset, 26 Dread, 27 Air, 28 Gradual, 29 Top **Down:** 2 Plate, 3 Egret, 4 Strife, 5 Broth, 6 Pecan, 7 Fir, 9 Pretend, 13 Renew, 15 Awash, 16 Sleeper, 19 Dismay, 21 Overt, 22 Nudge, 23 Stour, 24 Exalt, 26 Dog

WORD LADDER One solution is: Putt, Punt, Pant, Pane, Pale, Pole, Hole



Funerals

23rd September Lucy Michelle Groves
21st September Janice Keys

Baptisms

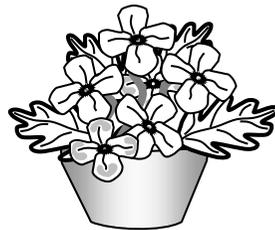
9th October James William Keyse

Sidespersons for November

	9.15 am	6.00 pm
6th	D. Wilson, A. West B. Hutchinson, M. Hutchinson	J. Cooper
13th	J. Cooper, T. Lockett S. Hallam, T. MacFarlane	P. Tunstall
20th	V. Ledward, S. Gerrard D. Pickles, P. Tunstall	D. Shemilt
27th	P. Hipkiss, C. Wilding M. Holden, G. Holden	J. Cooper

Flower Rota for November

6th Mrs. Pearson
13th Remembrance Day
20th Mrs. M. Hillman
27th Mrs. D. Tunstall



Birthdays



Happy Birthday Becky!



(I do this page! Ed. Daddy)