

Christ Church and People



April 2021

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Christ Church



and People

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

Cover Picture
Mount Crescent

4th April Easter Day
 Mark 15:42-16:8
 The opening
 Christ Church 9:15 am Communion
 Zoom 10:30 am
 St John's Oulton 6:00pm Communion

11th April Mark 11:35-40
 Whose Son is the Christ?

18th April Mark 14:53-65
 Are you the Christ?

25th April

Prayer meeting: 9am, Saturday 3rd April (Zoom)

IMPORTANT!!

On Easter Day we have the following services:
 9.15 a.m. An in-person Holy Communion at Christ Church, Stone (no singing). Places are limited - please ring or email the Vicar Paul with your details to book a seat.
 10.30 a.m. Benefice Zoom service (with singing). If you would like to join this, and you are not already receiving emails giving the access link, you must complete the permission form so that we can notify you of the Zoom code without breaking GDPR laws. Ring the Church Office (01785 811990) for details.
 6.00 p.m. An in-person Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer) at St John's Church, Oulton (no singing). Places are limited - please ring or email the Vicar Paul with your details to book a seat.

Individuals may only attend one, not both, of the in-person services due to limited seating and to avoid further risk of viral spread.

We hope to have such a pattern during April but will have to keep an open mind as to what is possible.

Paul

Defeating the last enemy

On Easter morning the disciples' GRIEF turned to JOY! It was something that Jesus had promised (John 16v20) but only on Easter Sunday did they realise what he meant!

GRIEF is energy sapping, the emotion of bereavement. On the third day after Jesus' death the disciples had such heavy hearts. Their world had collapsed. Events replayed in their minds: his sombre words; his earnest prayer in Gethsemane; his arrest; a rigged trial; his torture and execution. A huge void was left. He'd been everything to them: a trusted friend, their wise teacher and a leader like no other who had washed their smelly feet. But now he was gone. Truly he was led like a lamb to the slaughter.

The religious leaders had objected to how he'd undercut their own traditions about how to keep the Law. They objected to claims that made God his Father. They demanded a sign to prove his divine authority to bring such sweeping changes. Jesus' reply to their demand shocked them: "*Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days*" (John 2v19). They were aghast: how could he destroy the temple that took 46 years to build? It was the symbolic heart of their moral and legal life. How could he rebuild it in three days! To ensure that we as readers know what was going on John adds: "*But the temple he had spoken of was his body*" (John 2v20). We have to read the end of the story back into this event.

Jesus had been dead three days, by Easter Sunday. He was seen alive by many eyewitnesses. He ate, talked and walked with his disciples: their GRIEF turned to JOY! All began to fall into place, especially that bit about the temple: "After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the Scripture and the words Jesus had spoken" (John 2v22). The very heart of worship was no longer in one place, but in one PERSON. If you want to meet with God, then come to the risen Christ! We have life in his name.



(continued)

Defeating the last enemy *(cont)*

Jesus turns GRIEF to JOY. The fact that Christ is risen is like a bright light in a world overshadowed by death. The resurrection declares that Jesus is the Son of God who paid the price for our forgiveness to reconcile us to God and to give us a living hope.

HAPPY EASTER!

Paul Kingman

A year of lockdowns

We have now reached the anniversary of the first lockdown, and as a benefice of churches it has been a difficult year with so many things disrupted. We have had to persevere through many changes in the guidelines for action to minimise risk of spreading the virus. More recently, just before the Government announced the third lockdown, we received a letter from the Staffordshire health department informing us of the local danger of the new South African variant. In view of this our Diocese allowed churches, at their own discretion, not to hold services 'in person' until Easter.

So, what have we been able to do? Many things!

1. "In person" services (when permitted – no singing) on Sunday mornings and evenings.
2. Live Benefice services each week using 'Zoom' - a video link that allows multiple participants to be part of a service with real singing! This has been put together and run by a team of people from our churches. I am very thankful that we are blessed with enough technical skill to do this well.
3. Weekly short recorded services, prepared by the Vicar and his family at home and uploaded onto YouTube, which are also available via Facebook or the Christ Church website (www.christchurchstone.org).
4. Midweek Bible studies via Zoom.
5. Occasional services (particularly funerals) in the church buildings.
6. Home groups have continued to meet using Zoom.
7. School assemblies have been filmed by the 'Open the Book' team and sent to school for viewing.

And more (continued)

8. An after school 'club' called Ebenezer, has been prepared and filmed by our Children's and Families' worker Peter Cuthbert three times a week. This is available on YouTube via the Christ Church website.

9. Pastoral care: thanks to the pastoral care groups we are continuing to keep tabs on the flock.

10. Prayer meetings: we have continued our usual monthly meeting by Zoom at 9.00 am on the first Saturday of the month. We also have a short prayer meeting on Zoom at 10.00 am each Sunday, just before our Benefice Zoom service.

As we inch our way towards returning to in-person services with a very restricted maximum capacity, may I remind you that we have to observe the guidelines, which are:

- We take personal details for 'Test and Trace'. These can be taken in advance to avoid delays at the start of the service.
- We are required to observe social distancing.
- We must wear face masks. These must be in place before entering the premises.
- We all must use hand sanitizer on entering the building.
- We have to space out seating (this reduces the seating capacity by a lot!).
- We are not permitted to sing.
- We are not permitted to mingle to chat, during or after the service.
- Holy Communion is 'in one kind only' i.e. bread but not wine.

It's unclear what the future months will look like as we await more guidelines, but we ask for your patience and understanding at this time. Meanwhile, let's continue to read our Bibles and pray - asking the Lord to make his church healthier as a result of this lockdown, which has tested our faith but not robbed us of hope in the risen Christ!

Paul Kingman

7 Different life, different church, different worship

2020... the year that churches all over the country had to close the doors on its buildings. But 2020 was also the year that we were introduced to new ways to worship, with the surge in the provision of online and telephone services. For many who find leaving the house difficult due to poor physical or mental health, this abundance of new services has meant less isolation in a time when many others were, for the first time, feeling cut off from the rest of their world. As one in the Enabling Church network in the diocese said recently:

"The availability of online prayer, worship and study has been life changing for me and no doubt thousands of housebound people like me. I've been able to join morning prayer, evening prayer and Sunday worship once again, and am also a member of an online Christian discussion group. I'm sure that they have helped me overcome feelings of isolation and estrangement, connecting me once again with the church community which I've missed and within which I can fulfil our purpose and give and receive love."

In a year that was different from any other, life was different, church was different, worship was different. Although the physical doors on our church buildings were shut for many months, for many Christians new doors were opening as much of the church's life moved online; many people who are housebound, both recently and more long term, have been delighted to have access to the worship and community of the Church again. Much energy from ministers has been put into establishing practices, developing resources and raising skill levels; and in some churches, new volunteers have come forward to resource online worship and ministry. Virtual worship has worked well for many Christians with statistics showing that one quarter of the UK population has taken part in online worship during the last year.

continued

8 **Different life, different church, different worship**

A survey in our own diocese in the middle of last year showed that over 60% of parishes were able to make provision for online worship during the first lockdown. And our own cathedral in Lichfield is now live-streaming services three times per day, and regularly has online congregations at morning prayer that are up to ten times the number that used to attend in person.

For many, the lockdown and the provision of online prayer and worship which have come out of it have been a major boost to spiritual life. Of course, virtual church will never replace Church but the two do sit side by side.

It's good for the church that we now know that online discipleship and fellowship is part of our life. It's good for the church that we can reach people again that we had too easily let go of. Perhaps the challenge to pose is not one of inclusion but of integration: how will our online and offline lives fit together?

Zoe Corney

Zoe Corney is part of the diocesan Enabling Church team, who also lives with ME. The Enabling Church team is part of Transforming Communities Together, a charity formed and supported by Lichfield Diocese and Church Urban Fund, delegated to support people and communities to thrive and flourish tctogether.org.uk

Children's Society House Boxes

Thank you to all who gave so generously to the box collection for the Children's Society, £299.60p has been sent to the Society and I know they will be extremely grateful.

Sandra Morray

Children's Society Secretary

Christ Church on the Internet

Parish website	www.christchurchstone.org
Parish office email	office@christchurchstone.org
Magazine contributions	christchurch_mag@yahoo.co.uk

News from Ben Hardee

I am writing to let you know that I have accepted a call from Kearney Bible Church in Kearney Missouri. Sarah and I have been serving at Living Water Evangelical Free Church in Oskaloosa, Kansas for the last 7.5 years.

We have 2 kids now. Cyrus Elijah who is 5 years old and Roseanna Ruth who is 3 years old. The whole family is excited to start this new adventure together. God has really been moving in my life over the last few years.

I look back on my time in 2011 with the Churches of Stone, Moddershall, and Oulton with fondness. I miss you all and remain thankful for the opportunity to serve the Kingdom of God those 8 weeks. Looking back, I am amazed by how much I learned from Pastor Paul Kingman and Kieran Mcknight during that time. Thank you for all you have done for me.

In Christ,

Pastor Benjamin Adam Hardee

Chaplain to the Sheriff

We are pleased to hear the news that Rev Preb Gerald Gardiner has been invited to take on an honorary role as chaplain to the High Sheriff of Staffordshire. I asked him to write a little about this to fill us in on what it means. (Paul)

The Office of High Sheriff is the oldest continuous secular office under the Crown and can be traced back more than 1,000 years. The role has changed over the centuries but today the High Sheriff is the Queen's representative in the County for all matters relating to the Judiciary and the maintenance of law and order. Much of the High Sheriff's year therefore is spent supporting and encouraging the voluntary and statutory organisations who work in that area of life. In Staffordshire this means involvement with the Crown and Magistrates Courts, the Police, and the Prison and Probation Services. (There are 8 prisons in Staffordshire.) As chaplain to the new High Sheriff, Jamie Friend of Mucklestone, I will be preaching at services in St. Mary's Stafford that mark the beginning of each legal term as well as accompanying him on as many of his official visits as I can.

Gerald

Roger's workshop reflections

For many years a small, dark, close grained, wooden off cut had been kept in my workshop. It was too small to be of much use, so it just lay in the bottom of the "scrap box".

Then during a quiet period in "lockdown", I decided to make some hand held crosses. The "useless" piece of wood sprang to mind.

Soon the work bench was littered with rasps and files and after several hours of work the new hand-held crosses took shape.

It was a long, slow, but infinitely rewarding experience. The transformation from a "useless" piece of timber to a shaped polished cross resting in my hand reminded me of the prayer "Jesus Master Carpenter".

Lord Jesus, Master Carpenter of Nazareth, on the Cross through wood and nails you wrought our full salvation: Wield well your tools in this, your workshop, that we who come to you rough-hewn may be fashioned into a truer beauty by your hand; who with the Father and the Holy Spirit live and reign, one God, world without end. Amen. -Roger

Mission Giving Top-up

For many years, Christ Church has given 10% of its income to support our Mission partners. At the January PCC meeting it was pointed out that the church income has fallen considerably during the Covid pandemic. This will mean a smaller amount for our Mission partners this year. There is an article on the work of six of our Mission partners in the March magazine (you can find this on the Christ Church website).

So far, £850 extra has been donated but we still need more to bring our Missions support up to the level of 2019.

If you wish to make a donation to help boost the Mission Giving please contact the Church Office or Sheila Hawley (881646)

Mission Prayer Diary	
	<i>Church Mission Society</i>
1st	BRISTOL. Pioneer student Jenny Bourne coordinates the Ark Bus, a ministry that shares God's love in practical ways in the community. Jenny asks for prayer for the work of those on the fringes, finding God through the everyday. Pray for spaces to breathe and find peace in a world that is challenging and confusing.
2nd	STOKE-ON-TRENT Pioneer student Matt Richards, part of the chaplaincy team at YMCA North Staffordshire, asks for prayer to strengthen the community's spirit and for continued protection from Covid-19
3rd	BATH Kara Maylor, a second-year pioneer ordinand asks for prayer for her "Thank God it's Friday" women's group, a space for women to walk and chat together
4th	OXFORD Pray for CMS's Partnership for Missional Church (PMC) team as they adapt the PMC journey to new circumstances, including shorter, more frequent sessions and much teaching online.
	<i>Stephen and Tabita Bell are planting churches in Croatia</i>
5th	Pray for churches in Fier and Patos (Albania) and Dubrava and Sesvete (Croatia), that Stephen and Tabita have worked in over 30 years. Pray that these young churches will grow and bring in new Christians
6th	Stephen, Tabita and Benjamin are now at Capernwray Bible College (Lancashire). Due to lockdown, they have to attend lectures remotely from their rented house 2 miles from the college.
7th	Stephen and Tabita give thanks that they have received one vaccine dose and hope to have the 2nd before they return to Croatia in June to resume church planting
8th	Varaždin – We are moving Sept 2021 to this town 50 miles north of Zagreb and we already have a great relationship with Pastor Jonatan (Tabita's cousin)

	<i>Scripture Union provides Bible notes and runs activities for young people. Their online game “Guardians of Ancora” takes the gospel to gamers. “Revealing Jesus” is aimed at the 95% of UK under-18s not connected to any church</i>
9th	Easter is a traditional time for churches to run holiday clubs. Pray that as churches adapt SU programmes and run them online, children will hear the good news of Jesus in fresh ways
10th	Pray that “Zoom fatigue” will not set in among young people and the Easter activities on Zoom will be successful
11th	Local mission partner “Thrive” in Warwick and Leamington has launched a new weekly podcast “The heart of a youth leader” to help youth and children’s leaders stay close to Jesus in their ministry. Pray that people will discover the podcast and find it helpful
12th	Local mission partner “Impact” in Bedford are replacing their normal live re-enactment of the Easter story with a video. Pray that many children will have the opportunity to watch the video
	<i>Our CMS Link Missionaries Tim and Kate Lee helped to set up JigSaw Kids Ministries in Manila (Philippines)</i>
13th	Please pray for Jigsaw’s new hot meal, nutrition initiative. Pray that God continues to provide all the funds and resources needed for Jigsaw to provide an extra hot meal for the 2000 children per week and that God will continue to lead us to those most in need, even those Jigsaw has not yet met.
14th	Please pray for Jigsaw’s sewing ministry and women’s bible groups. Pray for God’s love and Joy to fill the ladies through their creativity and for many to know Jesus through the online bible studies that are growing out of the sewing ministry. Thank you.
15th	Please pray for our family, that God may keep us all well and safe. Pray to bring connection and comfort between Kate, James, Grace and myself in Kuala Lumpur and Rebekah in Norwich. Please pray too for God’s wisdom and guidance as we seek to follow his plans as we return to the UK in July. Thank you

16th	Please continue to pray for Jigsaw literacy ministry. For Judith who is the lead teacher for continued strength under so much work and for each child that they may know hope and new life as they begin to read and write for the very first time. Please pray for Bea too Jigsaw's teaching assistant who has recently had a beautiful baby girl and that God will raise up a temporary literacy assistant while Bea is on maternity leave. Thank you
	<i>Jonathan and Robinah Beesigomwe live in Gabarone, Botswana. Their organisation is "Bows and Arrows Ministry", and they work with older schoolchildren and young adults.</i>
17th	Pray for the "Foundations in Farming" project in partnership with the University of Agriculture
18th	Pray for Mission Outreach March 8-26 in North Botswana. Problems include Covid-19 and Gender-based violence
19th	Pray for a newer car for Ministry. The trail of smoke is scary and mechanics not excited to repair it. We keep praying God keeps Noah's spanner in action. Faith car is 21 years old this year
20th	Pray for farm land after mustering growing Safflower and training a team of thirty to reduce poverty
	<i>Mission Aviation Fellowship fly medical personnel, supplies and missionaries to far-flung, often inaccessible settlements</i>
21st	Give thanks that hope is being brought to Yolnu communities in Arnhem Land (Australia) through the provision of God's Word via solar-powered audio Bibles
22nd	In Haiti staff from a church were ambushed while delivering food and supplies to isolated communities. MAF stepped in to fly supplies through bandit country and make sure that needy people were given help

23rd	Uphold the Bible study groups established by MAF partner Lesotho Flying Pastors. Thanks to MAF a mountain-based LFP couple visits villages daily to lead Bible studies and encourage believers
24th	Praise God for MAF flights in Africa and Asia which transport doctors and dentists to inaccessible areas. Without MAF the health needs of many cannot be met
	<i>The Bible Society's Bible-a-month club is delivering Bible resources in Mozambique, a country troubled by Islamic extremists, and cyclones as well as Covid19</i>
25th	Pray for 100 pastors who were trained to promote peaceful co-existence with people of other faiths
26th	Pray for Christians in Cabo Delgado, where Islamist extremists are most active. Pray for an end to the violence and hatred
27th	Pray for Davina (not her real name) who was raped by her stepfather when she was 10 and has carried the trauma with her for years. She spoke out at a Bible Society healing workshop
	<i>Tear Fund works with local churches and organisations to show God's love in action</i>
28th	Tearfund runs several urban community projects in Pakistan recycling waste, Pray that these projects will catalyse wider efforts to create greener cities
29th	The Yola Renewal Foundation in NE Nigeria trains young people to recycle waste into marketable products such as compost and paving blocks– in an area of high unemployment
30th	IN Central African Republic, women receive literacy, numeracy and business training through Village Saving and Loan Associations, supported by Tearfund. With better livelihood, lives are restored and the cycle of poverty can be broken

Give thanks for your vaccination

The Diocese of Lichfield and the Wolverhampton & Shrewsbury District of the Methodist Church have partnered with aid and development charity Christian Aid to give people an opportunity to give thanks for their Covid-19 vaccine and help others in crisis across the world.

Recognising the deep sense of relief and gratitude experienced by many people after being vaccinated, the organisations have come together to enable people to pass the blessing on by making a donation to Christian Aid's Coronavirus Appeal.

Funds from the appeal are helping vulnerable communities around the world access soap, water, food and vital health information in the face of the pandemic. Many communities around the world face an uncertain wait for a vaccine as questions remain around the cost and timing of a global vaccine programme.

The Bishop of Lichfield, the Right Revd Dr Michael Ipgrave, said. "The vaccine is bringing with it a deep sense of relief and hope for families across our diocese and many people want to express their gratitude by reaching out to others.

"While the pandemic affects all of us, it has highlighted the deep disparities in how communities and families are able to protect themselves both within our country and around the world. My hope is that people will give generously to the work of Christian Aid from a place of thanksgiving and a desire to see all people being able to live safely."

The Revd Rachel Parkinson, Chair of the Wolverhampton & Shrewsbury District, said: *"Being part of a worldwide Methodist Church makes us very aware of our own privilege in this country when compared to so many of our brothers and sisters around the globe. Making a donation to Christian Aid is an effective way of sharing hope and love with them."*

Christian Aid partners have so far directly helped over half a million people in 27 countries including distributing food packages to nearly 60,000 people struggling to feed their families after losing work during lockdown and the economic downturn.

continued

Going forwards, Christian Aid will support vaccination programmes in communities by providing data on hard-to-reach populations to local health services and by working with trusted community figures to challenge misleading information about the virus and vaccination as well as any stigma faced by those who contract Covid-19.

Christian Aid's Head of Community Fundraising and Public Engagement Chine McDonald said: *"The coronavirus pandemic has shown us that none of us is safe, until all of us are safe. It has been amazing to see the speed at which the vaccines have been rolled out in the UK – every jab in someone's arm brings us closer to the end of Covid-19.*

"But the reality is that richer countries like ours are getting more access to vaccines, while the poorer countries in which Christian Aid works are left at the back of the queue. As a Christian organisation, we believe that every person is equal in the sight of God and worthy of living lives with dignity, equality and justice."

"We're delighted to work together with the Diocese of Lichfield and the Wolverhampton & Shrewsbury District to give people an opportunity to say thanks and help protect our global neighbours while the vaccine is out of reach."

The appeal launch comes after nearly two thirds of people asked in a UK poll agreed that a global COVID-19 vaccine programme should be created which does not prioritise richer countries over poorer ones.

Sixty-three per cent of respondents to the survey commissioned by Christian Aid said they wanted to see countries working together to create a global COVID-19 vaccine programme that would not prioritise developed countries over developing countries. Only 11% disagreed.

Donations can be made through Christian Aid

Traidcraft plc

The company is continuing to make a good recovery after its financial problems & restructuring in 2018/19 & the Covid Pandemic in 2020. The Spring/Summer catalogue has lots of interesting info. about the producers & their products. Most of the items are in stock at the warehouse, including your favourite items e.g. cookies, chocolate, cards & socks. If you'd like to look at a catalogue or place an order contact Sheila Hawley (811646). There may be some Real Easter Eggs left!

Please continue to look for fair-trade items when you shop or order on line & buy them if you can.

Traidcraft Exchange (The Charity)

Traidcraft Exchange is independent of the trading company but they are linked. In April, Ruth usually gives any profit made/donations received to the charity to support their projects.

The 2021 campaigns focus on Trade & Climate Justice
A new Green Trade Deal The UK should join New Zealand, Norway & Iceland to ban fossil fuel subsidies so green trade deals become cheaper & easier.

Garment workers really suffered last year. The charity will be working to ensure the sector is regulated to protect worker's rights & stop bad behaviour by the big brands.

Brexit As trade talks are going on with other countries, Traidcraft Exchange will be trying to protect their projects in Africa e.g. Tanzanir & SE Asia e.g Bangladesh.

For more info. on these campaigns, see the website www.traidcraftexchange.org

Sheila

What a year! Life has changed out of all recognition; many more people than would normally be expected to, have died; this has had a huge impact on many lives.

However, alongside that I realise that many lives have been saved thanks to the wonderful work and commitment of NHS staff and this too has affected many families in a positive way.

I remember some years ago when my son and his family were living in Singapore my daughter-in-law, Karen, spotted the body of a child on the bottom of the swimming pool at 'The British Club'. Like a shot she was in, retrieved the child, and being a nurse administered resuscitation and saved the child's life. Both she and we were surprised by the hugeness of the impact that this experience had on her let alone its influence the future of that family. I expect that will be the experience of many nurses and doctors once they have had the chance to take stock after the pandemic is over.

Interestingly, 'Christians Against Poverty' (CAP) names its supporters 'Life Changers' and often the change CAP input makes saves lives too – both from potential extreme physical harm and also helps people to connect with God, their life giver and sustainer.

As you read Christ Church Magazine, thankfully now back in paper form as well as online, this month and in future months, I hope you too will be encouraged and able to connect with the creator and giver of all good things this life has to offer, and also to receive assurance of eternal life with God in heaven one day.

Dave Rowlands

Past

Good to read articles of long ago telling of past events and history,

Such as :- Mothers union and Men's Bible study group. Money raising events and Social activities.

Building problems and changes. People and circumstances. Above all a dedication to Gods work and the Gospel in Stone.

All these things give us an insight to our past heritage as Christians at Christ Church.

Present

The daily prayer diary gives very good insight to what our missionaries are doing and their prayer needs.

It is good to hear from our Hospital visitors group and supporting them in prayer. Also the carol singing at Christmas.

Also it's good that so many of us feel able to share articles, messages, news and information especially sorrows and joys. Especially during this time of lock downs it's a good contact for many.

Future

I think it would be good to see a Young people's Page. With stories and puzzles etc.

And even an article or other input from our young Christians. This would help to bridge the generation gap.

Conclusion

Producing a monthly Magazine is a relentless task and our thanks must go to our Current Editor and the production team. Our thanks also to our regular contributors. Thanks to past editors and contributors.

I wonder what the Magazine will be like in 2121. When we will be part of the heritage.

Mike Thompson

To our friends in Stone, greetings from South Shields, in the far Northeast! We always remember our years working, worshipping and sharing life with you at Christ Church as a truly blessed time. The Lord has led us slowly further north over the years, with South Shields being our home now. Adam is the pastor of Shield Evangelical Church, an Independent church plant started in November of 2014. During the past six and a half years, we have met in various rented buildings around town, all the while praying for a permanent church home of our own. The Lord has answered in a big way! A beautiful 150-year-old former United Reformed Church in the centre of town went up for sale in September 2020. Although there were numerous viewings and bids, we were the only church who wanted to purchase it and continue its use as a place of worship to our Living God. As a small church plant, we knew it would take a miracle to make this happen! After reaching out to friends and family, along with generous gifts from within Shield Church, we raised an incredible amount in a very short time thus allowing us to procure the necessary mortgage and win the bid on the building. It has been a huge encouragement to see the Lord's hand at work amongst His people literally across the world to make this happen! The sale was completed in February 2021, and we are enjoying our times of worship there together (with the necessary Covid secure measures in place). Visitors are already joining us and we pray that the Lord Jesus will help us to continue to reach out to this community with the wonderful news of His great love and salvation.

We pray as well that the Lord blesses you and fills you with His love and hope. And if you are ever up this far north, please come and join us!

In Him, Adam and Helen Clare Rushton and Eden (12), Judah (10), Shiloh (8) and Gabriel (5)

Following Jesus where the need is greatest

Beirut Update

Following the World of Difference article last month on Lebanon & Beirut, Tearfund have thanked supporters for their response to the Emergency Appeal after the disastrous explosion in August 2020.

Local partners were able to help 400 affected families with cash/vouchers according to their needs. Since the recovery phase began, 6,000 households have received help with clothing & bedding. 240 children/young adults have had psychological support.

Please continue to pray for Beirut & the thousands of families affected by the explosion. The city is also facing rising Covid cases & a recession which has pushed millions into poverty in the country as a whole.

Lift up the work of Tearfund & their partners as they help people to rebuild their lives & protect themselves from the virus.

Sheila

A welcome to the magazine

It's back! I know the magazine hasn't really been anywhere....available online for most, if not all, of the past 12 months, but I'm a hard copy person, book not kindle, or just lazy maybe! I had to find the right page, tap the right buttons and if I wanted to refer to anything later, print it off. So, I'm very pleased that we're able to have the magazine back in circulation. I particularly like the prayer diary which we use every day.

Phil Tunstall

Jigsaw at home

We Praise God for Jigsaw kids' clubs and youth clubs at home. Each week Jigsaw pack up over 2000, 'named' Jigsaw home packs, including Bible, family prayer, literacy and education activities, a craft pack and a food pack. They deliver them to the urban areas on the streets and in the depressed communities. Jigsaw's philosophy for 17 years as taught by Jesus, 'bring the children to me and do not hinder them,' means Jigsaw does not say NO or turn away a child. It's a big challenge at the moment as so many new children are wanting to receive Jigsaw home packs, but Praise God, Jigsaw is 'doing it' in God's strength. We thank God for the extra gifts we have received in February and for the new volunteers making this happen. Praise God.

Doors now opening up for Jigsaw's sustainable development:

So what now, well Praise God his plans and timing are perfect and he has now opened the door for a strong development team to form consisting of Jeannette Soto (Jigsaw's first social worker and program manager) Jenalyn Apiag our current program manager and myself. As a team we are seeking God's guidance for Jigsaw's future by leading a ministry review. The review is part of the process to prepare for a three year strategic, sustainability plan which we hope to start implementing in the second quarter of this year. We are so excited for the vision for Jigsaw to be fully established & sustainable so that it can share God's Love for generations to come. Please pray for wisdom and guidance as we take on this very important task.

Our BIG news is that we have made the hard/easy decision to leave KL in July. God has done so much over the last two years and we see that he called us here not only for the development of Jigsaw's sustainability but significantly to help develop Jigsaw through the pandemic. BUT we have not been able to see Rebekah for over a year now and it doesn't seem borders will be open for free travel to and from Malaysia for at least another year.

God's blessings, Kate, Tim and family

A year of living safely

After a year of living only on the church website, the magazine emerges again into the light of day! To celebrate, most of our regular contributors have written something, and there is more!

It seems like forever since we entered the anxious time of the (first) lockdown– we thought there would be only one! We have been in and out of church like this (I think).

22nd March No congregation, attempt to live-stream from Christ Church failed

29th March Zoom church began! We learned to love it
Ebenezer went online and we all met Zelda

17th May Zoom church crashed, UK-wide bug

19th July Said communion in church + Zoom

26th July Back to Zoom-only (Virus surge in Stone)

9th August From this Sunday, a service took place in one or more churches in the benefice, + Zoom

8th Nov Back to Zoom-only services (2nd Lockdown)

6th Dec In church again, Zoom continues
Advent Windows on Zoom

20th Dec Carol service on Zoom

25th Dec Christmas Day service in church + Zoom

27th Dec Live Zoom church from St John's with congregation

3rd Jan Zoom-only again (3rd Lockdown)

4th April In church again for Easter Sunday + Zoom

Through till January, our churches were open for a short time most weeks for private prayer.

Zoom church has grown on us, we now regularly have attendance of more than 50 computers with unknown numbers of people in view or hiding out of sight. Those of us with two large screens can see more but even a cheap smartphone enables us to join in. Whistling microphones, dodgy wifi and fuzzy cameras have been upgraded and we expect to be using Zoom for a long time more. *Dave Bell*

FLOWER ROTA

4th April	Easter
11th April	Flower Guild
18th April	Flower Guild
25th April	Flower Guild



ROADS FOR PRAYER

4th April	11th April
Tunley Street	Airdale Spinney
Trinity Drive	Cross Street
Airdale Grove	Nicholls Lane
Airdale Road	Old Road

18th April	25th April
Old Road Close	Prince's Street
Oulton Cross	Queen's Square
Oulton Road	York Street
Oulton Mews	Navigation Loop



PARISH DIRECTORY

CHURCH SCHOOLS

Christ Church C.E.(Controlled) First School, Northesk Street.	
Headteacher Mrs A. Graham BA(Hons) NPQH	01785 336545
Christ Church Academy, Old Road	
Principal: Mr C. Wright MAEd	01785 334900
Vicar Paul Kingman	812669
The Vicarage, Bromfield Court	
Children & Families Worker Peter Cuthbert	07733 042205
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