

# Christ Church and People



# February 2022

# PARISH DIRECTORY

## SUNDAY SERVICES

Details of our services are given on page 4.

## THE PARISH TEAM

<b>Vicar</b>	Paul Kingman	812669
	The Vicarage, Bromfield Court	
<b>Children &amp; Families Worker</b>	Peter Cuthbert	07733 042205
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<b>Electoral Roll Officer</b>	Parish Office	811990
<b>Parish Office</b>	Christ Church Centre, Christ Church Way, Stone, Staffs ST15 8ZB	
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## CHRIST CHURCH CENTRE

<b>Booking Secretary</b>	Parish Office	811990
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## 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

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## Christ Church



## and People

Please send your articles for the March magazine to us by 15th February

Cover Picture  
The Avenue

### **Christ Church on the Internet**

Parish website

[www.christchurchstone.org](http://www.christchurchstone.org)

Parish office email

[office@christchurchstone.org](mailto:office@christchurchstone.org)

Magazine contributions

[christchurch\\_mag@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:christchurch_mag@yahoo.co.uk)

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event– Check with office for updates February</b>
1st	10:30 am	Communion, Christ Church
6th	9:15 am	Communion, Christ Church
	11:00 am	Communion, St John’s, Oulton
8th	10:30 am	Communion, Christ Church
13th	9:15 am	Morning Prayer, Christ Church
	11:00 am	Morning Prayer, St John’s Oulton
	11:00 am	Communion, All Saints, Moddershall
15th	10:30 am	Communion, Christ Church
20th	9:15am	Communion Christ Church
	11:00 am	Communion, St John’s, Oulton
22nd	10:30 am	Communion, Christ Church
27th	9:15 am	Morning Prayer, Christ Church Psalm 19 “Word and worship”
	11:00 am	Morning Prayer, St John’s, Oulton
	11:00 am	Morning Prayer, All Saints, Moddershall
	5:00 pm	Lent course

## Face to face

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Meeting up with people face to face is so very precious. We can see the joy on people's faces when communication is no longer remote, or electronic, but is real and personal. The declaration of love by one valentine heart to another is motivated by the desire to be with the person.

We've come to appreciate face to face contact more profoundly due to the regulations that divided families and friends during the pandemic. It's true that we've worked harder at making communication through writing letters, emails and texts, or looked forward to regular 'catchups' using the humble telephone or through video links. Perhaps there is something to learn from this. But when it comes down to it, we know that staring at a glass screen, however good the resolution and colour balance, is just not the same as being with someone in person. We want to see them face to face. Unfortunately, the United Nations designation of the year 2022 being 'the year of glass' has a certain irony to it.

The profound enjoyment of seeing someone you love face to face is expressed in a well-known passage often read at weddings. One line is not so well known, and even less understood we might joke! But is worth pondering for a moment. Here is the line that came to my mind: "*For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known*" (1 Corinthians 13v12). The ancient mirrors were made of polished metal such as bronze, which required constant polishing to ensure that a reflection could be seen. One's reflection was much dimmer than in modern mirrors. The Apostle Paul who wrote this line is addressing a church which thought it knew it all, since they were super-spiritual. Yet Paul, the great theologian, and we, the lesser theologians, will as we consider all that God has revealed have to admit that our understanding of the truth is partial.

(continued)



## **Face to face** *(cont)*

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An imperfect knowledge leaves us scratching our heads at times, since the complete picture eludes us and we are told that, "*the secret things belong to the Lord*" (Deuteronomy 29v29). This will all change on the day of Christ's return (his second coming or advent) when his people shall see him face to face. All will then be clear for those who belong to Christ and his eternal kingdom. What a great day that will be: the communication will be in person, face to face. *Paul Kingman*

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### **Children's Society House Boxes**

It's that time of the year again!

Can you let me have your house box, but not until after 20th February - please?

If you bring it to church, please hand it to me or give it to one of the wardens, don't leave it at the back of the church.

If you would like me to collect your box, that's fine, just let me know. House boxes raise over £2 million a year for the society's work.

*Children's Society Secretary, Sandra Morray*

### **Christingle - December 18th 2021**

The Christingle celebration went ahead last year 2021 albeit with fewer children. However the children made their Christingles and we talked about the meaning of them, it was lovely to see many of our past mums and toddlers. The toddlers of course being much bigger now than when they last attended the Monday morning group (Covid has a lot to answer for!).

The service in the church followed – but a faulty candle, which kept failing to relight, hampered Paul's talk to us!

We sang songs and prayed for the work of the Children's Society

Many thanks go to Oulton First School for their fantastic 'Candle Collection' contribution; they raised a total of £323.00 that has been sent to the Children's Society for their valuable work with vulnerable children in the UK. Thanks also to Morrison's Supermarket who generously donated the oranges for the Christingles. *Sandra Morray*

Being involved at UHNM is always *interesting, challenging, surprising and rewarding*.

I have recently learned that the Trust's Induction for new staff from abroad now includes an introduction to the work of the SPaRC team with a tour of the Chaplaincy at RSUH. This, I believe, is a great step forward.

A few of my recent experiences are summarised below...

- One day I was asked to take the concertina to play in the 'Home from Home' room at County Hospital. Amazingly the patient who came along that day used to play the piano accordion and, despite my inadequate playing, thoroughly enjoyed the time spent there. It was a very welcome distraction from current difficulties and *REWARDING* for me.
- A patient said to me, quote... "I've had a wonderful time" They had spent quite some time telling me about lots of memories from their life which I found most *INTERESTING*; something they'd been unable to do with anyone for a long time. How beneficial a listening ear can be!
- I visited someone who'd firmly stated that they were an atheist when I arrived. At the end I said... "Before I go I'll ask you the question I ask everyone but I think I know the answer already - would you like me to pray with you?" The answer... "Oh, yes please and come and see me next week" That was a *SURPRISE*.
- One patient who was quiet and hard to get chatting suddenly asked quite out of the blue... "What do you believe?" When I'd outlined the basis of my faith, I asked... "And what about you?" The reply was... "That's what I believe too" A lovely outcome but a bit of a *CHALLENGE* as well.

*Dave Rowlands*

South Sudan's bloody struggle for independence depended upon hopes of improved healthcare, schooling and quality of life, to be funded by abundant oil reserves. Independence was achieved in 2011 but the new nation was awash with weapons, infrastructure had been shattered and the population uneducated. Malaria, diarrhoea and pneumonia were rampant, now added to by Covid. Armed bandits operate with impunity.

MAF began flights in 1948, with a base established at Juba in 2006. Flights are essential to groups such as Tearfund which operates nutrition projects in Pieri, Motot and Yuai to support vulnerable babies. MAF has helped "Every Village" organisation to drill 160 wells for the country's remotest communities.

Mission workers have been flown to destinations in South Sudan, for many ministry organisations including Pioneers, Africa Inland Mission, and the Episcopal Church of South Sudan. Fruits Ministry uses MAF to reach Kapoeta where the group's workers plant churches and provide schooling for vulnerable children of the Toposa tribe. Over 200 organisations use MAF flights from Juba.

The hospital at Tonj depends upon a weekly flight from Juba for supplies and staff transport. "The road isn't an option for us because it's a three-day drive and runs a risk of ambush" said Dr Jonathan MacLeod "with MAF, when vital medicines run out, we can restock within a week, compared to months previously. The weekly shuttle has boosted our effectiveness, quality of life and sustainability as missionaries".

MAF country director Bastiaan de Waal declared "MAF remains committed to helping this often-forgotten nation-enabling partners to reach isolated people with help and hope for the future"



	<b>Mission Prayer Diary</b>
	<i>Scripture Union</i>
1st	Give thanks for the growing impact of online game “Guardians of Ancora” and the new language version “Guardianes de Ancora”. Pray that this new version will reach young people in South American countries
2nd	“Diary of a disciple: Luke’s story journal” builds on the success of the original book. Pray that this will help children engage more deeply with Luke’s Gospel
3rd	Pray that SU’s IT infrastructure will be protected from hackers and other cyberattacks
4th	Pray that this year, SU camps and missions will be able to return to “normal” with numbers of young people back to pre-pandemic levels
	<i>Stephen and Tabita Bell are planting churches in Croatia</i>
5th	Varaždin – Our new church location. Pray that we will find our roles in this small church and help to bring in new church members
6th	Croatia has been suffering from very high levels of Covid infections and illness during January. Pray that infections will decrease and church work will progress
7th	Varazdin church has just bought a building and is trying to acquire some adjacent waste ground to use as a car park. Pray that this will work out and make it easier for people to attend meetings
8th	Stephen and Tabita have rented a small house in Varaždin now and are becoming more involved in local church

	<i>TearFund works with many poor communities across the world. They especially work through local churches and agencies</i>
9th	Ask God to bring peace, healing and reconciliation between all people in Ethiopia and for the violence to end.
10th	Pray for provision of food, shelter, clean water and job opportunities for people who have been made homeless or who are suffering due to the violence in Ethiopia. Lift up those who are traumatised, and pray for God's comfort over their mind and body.
11th	Pray for people's protection. Lift up Tearfund's local partners and other charities who are providing people with food, clean water and essentials in often challenging situations; pray for their safety as they travel and work.
12th	Thousands of Rohingya people have been left homeless after a fire in Cox's Bazar refugee camp in Bangladesh. Tearfund's local partners have visited the camps and those affected and are responding. Pray for urgent provision and for God's comfort. Pray for the safety and care of Rohingya refugees to be at the heart of everyone's response.
	<i>Our CMS Link Missionaries Tim and Kate Lee helped to set up JigSaw Kids Ministries in Manila (Philippines)</i>
13th	Jigsaw's work is dependent upon transport. Their van is very old and beyond repair, An appeal for £14,000 to buy a new one has so far raised £8,750
14th	Pray for God's protection for everyone involved in Jigsaw Ministries. May God miraculously open more doors for them in the future

15th	Please pray for Jigsaw's new trauma care ministry: Following Jigsaw's trauma care training Jigsaw is planning to develop its care ministry for children experiencing trauma in each area in the new year. Please pray for Jigsaw's Community Ministry Leaders for guidance and wisdom as they seek to grow and develop new ministries in their areas.
16th	Give thanks that £5,200 was raised to pay for Christmas parties for children and individual gifts for more than 2,500 children. Weekly food parcels have been given to 700+ needy families and 2,500 “Jigsaw at home” packs have been distributed
	<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	The work of Jonathan and Robinah was recently recognised by Botswana’s Vice-President Mr Slumber Tsogwane, who said that an estimated 800,000 people have been reached through their health and social interventions during the last 25 years. Botswana Christian AIDS Intervention Programme (BOCAIP) continues to offer free health advice services
18th	Pray for Rev Dr Edward Turitwenka, who hopes to continue the work started by the Beesigomwes.
19th	Pray for a newer car for Ministry. The trail of smoke is scary and mechanics not excited to repair it. We give thanks for seed money that has put Faith car back on the road for a while longer
20th	J&R hope to retire in July 2023 but this depends on their house being ready. At the moment it is only a building plot, building work has not begun

	<i>Mission Aviation Fellowship fly medical personnel, supplies and missionaries to far-flung, often inaccessible settlements. This month, MAF's work in South Sudan</i>
21st	MAF partner "In Deed and Truth" (IDAT) runs a hospital in Tonj, where outpatient numbers have trebled in 6 years. Pray for Dr Jonathan MacLeod and his medical team as they strive to improve outcomes for new-born babies
22nd	Oxygen is vital to assist breathing of some babies. The oxygen concentrator at Tonj broke down but MAF staff were able to repair it. Pray that the machine will continue to save lives
23rd	"Road transport to Juba is not an option for us" said Dr MacLeod, "due to the distance and high risk of a rebel ambush". "The weekly MAF shuttle from Juba has massively improved the effectiveness of our ministry". Pray that MAF aircraft can keep on flying this route.
24th	Clean drinking water is scarce in South Sudan. Pray that MAF's efforts to improve water supplies will be successful
	<i>The Bible Society's Bible-a-month club is delivering Bible resources in Costa Rica, a small country between Panama and Nicaragua with population 5.2 million</i>
25th	The Ngäbe are the only indigenous group in Costa Rica that does not have the New Testament in their own language. Mark's gospel in Ngäbere was distributed in 2021 and translation work continues on the rest of the New Testament
26th	Improved website has led to increased sales of Bibles in Costa Rica. Pray that Bible sales will continue to increase
27th	Ask God to bless churches that so desperately want to use Ngäbere language Bibles
28th	Pray for the translation teams as they work on the Ngäbere Bible

## Lent Course: The Bible –

*-A Story that makes Sense of Life*

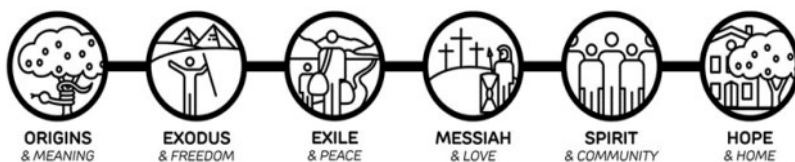
The political, social and cultural upheaval of our times can leave us feeling bewildered and wondering where to turn for trustworthy guidance. As unlikely as it may seem, could the Bible provide ancient wisdom that helps us flourish today?

Join us on a fascinating series with Andrew Ollerton as he explores the storyline of Scripture, connecting six major biblical events with six definitive human needs: for meaning, freedom, peace, community, love and for an ultimate home. In these sessions we see how the Bible story makes sense of our human story.

Discover for yourself a limitless source of guidance and hope in the face of so much uncertainty.

Underpinned by a depth of scholarship, but non-technical in style, it makes it accessible for the widest possible readership - including Christians and seekers interested in the Bible and to identify the relevance of the Bible in our cultural moment.

When we make sense of the Bible, the Bible makes sense of us.



The United Benefice course runs on Sundays at 5pm (from 27th Feb) and each session is repeated on Wednesdays at 7.30 p.m. (from 2nd March) in Christ Church Centre, Stone.

**What reviewers of the book behind the course have said:**

'For the believer, sceptic or just-plain-confused, this is an essential guide to how the Bible speaks to modern life' [*Justin Brierley, author of Unbelievable?*]

## Lent Course

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### **What reviewers of the book behind the course have said:**

'Honest, revealing insight into the bestselling book of all time.' [*Bear Grylls, Chief Scout*]

'A stimulating and accessible survey of history's most influential book.' [*Tom Holland, historian and author of Dominion*]

'Personal and profound; informative and practical. If you want to experience the Bible as a rich source of guidance and hope, this book is for you.' [*Simon Thomas, former Sky Sports and Blue Peter presenter*]

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### **Gifts from near and far**

Tim and Kate Lee, on behalf of Jigsaw Kids Ministries, say a huge "Thank You" for all the financial aid, prayers, and school sponsorship, that have enabled God's love to be shared with needy children and their families in shanty towns and on the streets of Manila.

On behalf of Jigsaw Ministries, please praise God and give thanks for:

- Jigsaw's Christmas appeal that raised £5200 to enable Jigsaw to provide wonderful group parties out of lockdown, and individual gifts for more than 2500 children and young people.
- Weekly emergency food parcels for 700+ needy families and 2500 'Jigsaw at Home' packs for children and young people during lockdown
- Just imagine how much effort goes into preparing all these food and activity packs every week!
- Jeannette Sotto, Jigsaw's new Director, is in contact with local organisations interested in partnering with Jigsaw Ministries. The prospect of more local support for Jigsaw Ministries is encouraging.

*(continued)*

## **Jigsaw prayers**

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### Pray for

- Jigsaw's extensive areas of work are all dependent on reliable transport. Their van is very old and beyond repair. An appeal for £14000 to buy a new van has so far raised £8750.
- A suitable home for Tim & Kate, in the Lake District, and a permanent teaching post nearby for Kate. God's guidance and protection for James and Rebekah both studying at the University of East Anglia, and for Grace as she settles at school and makes new friends.
- God's protection and guidance for everyone involved in Jigsaw Ministries. May God miraculously open more doors for them in the future. Also, for guidance and encouragement for Tim as he works from the UK, supporting Jigsaw and developing protocols for CMS-Asia

For further information, please see Jigsaw's latest newsletter on the Mission Matters noticeboard in the church centre.

*Elizabeth*

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## **Help with Bible reading**

There are several Bible reading schemes available. Probably the best-known are the Bible reading notes produced by Scripture Union, details available on their website [www.content.scriptureunion.org.uk](http://www.content.scriptureunion.org.uk) or any Bible bookshop.

The Bible Society, which is translating the Bible into many languages, also provides schemes. For group studies

- Bible Book Club
- The Bible Course
- The Big Picture
- Lyfe

And for private study, Daily Reflections. All of these available from the Bible Society website [www.biblesociety.org](http://www.biblesociety.org)

There are many other schemes available, the UCB website is worth a visit and there are others. Bible Gateway provides online Bibles in several translations but they also have a reading scheme. If you have not started regular Bible readings yet why not give one of these a try? *Dave B*

*Jonathan began his church work in Uganda but was called by God to Gabarone, capital city of Botswana, in 1993. The work began officially in 1996 after a meeting with the First Lady (wife of the President of Botswana). Many years later, the work of Jonathan, Robinah and their colleagues was commended by Vice-President Mr Slumber Tsogwane in December 2021, with the presentation to Jonathan of a certificate of recognition.*

*Jonathan tells us of his retirement plans but these are some way off yet. He hopes that Reverend Dr. Edward Turitwenka will continue the work in Botswana after their retirement. (some extracts from December newsletter)*

#### KEY TEAMS AND DATES

While this edition helps us to look back to the starting of The Uganda Botswana Mission Partnership, it will also highlight our plans to retire back to Uganda. We are so grateful to God for the privilege you gave us to represent you in this history making African Missionary adventure. Of course we had hoped to touch Africa through Botswana but there is still hope. Allow us to take you through some highlights and dates that led to the formation of Botswana AIDS Intervention Programme - BOCAIP that was supposed to be the Vehicle to Africa. We recently celebrated BOCAIP Silver Jubilee. This made us feel we have over stayed. But God's timing is the best. All things being equal and Covid 19 Protocols permitting, our return date to Uganda is still 31 July, 2023.

#### THE START

n August 1993, a team of ten from Uganda and Kenya led by Jonathan Beesigomwe came to Botswana for a mission bringing the Jesus film in Setswana. The Jesus film and equipment were received by the paramount chief of the Bakwena tribe, Kgosi Neil Sechele on behalf of the people of Botswana and Campus Crusade for Christ (CCC). In 1996, BOCAIP was formed.



After twenty eight years of ministry, it was good to hear the Vice President say to us & you: "Thank you for what you have done for our Nation." The certificate is dedicated to our partners. We took it as a release to retire since there is now replacement potential in BOCAIP.

Monday December 6, 2021 Page 3 Daily News. "Botswana Christian AIDS Intervention Programme (BOCAIP) has helped transform the lives of communities and in the process, assisted the country to achieve epidemic control. An estimated 800 000 people have been reached through the organisation's health and social interventions over the past 25 years." These remarks were made by Vice President Slumber Tsogwane at the NGO's silver jubilee celebrations in Gaborone Friday, 3 December 2021. Mr. Tsogwane said it was a rare achievement for a local NGO to achieve 25 years of progressive existence in the current funding climate. BOCAIP currently offers free health services to people living with HIV and those that battle other social ills. The silver jubilee was held alongside the organisation's annual general meeting (AGM).

#### INVITATION AND PRAYER FOR OUR RETURN

As shared above we are trusting God to allow our relocation back to Uganda on 31 July, 2023, exactly 30 years since I first came to Botswana. We would like to invite you to participate in our preparation to get back. Please join our Relocation Leadership team in Uganda led by Dr. Edward Turitwenka who are planning to help build a shelter for us to return to on the just rescued Plot in Kikaya, near Kampala. They will share this letter and other updates with you. Pray too for a newer car for Ministry when we return. Wishing you a prosperous New Year 2022.

*Faithfully Yours Jonathan and Robinah Beesigomwe.*

Our granddaughter came to stay and one day the whole house was turned into a school with the garden becoming the playground. ("We are sure", we said," that whistles are ONLY blown in the playground").

Various rooms became classrooms. Poor class 10 only had the understairs toilet. "Bit of a squash", observed big brother.

The six-year-old had made the living room into the staff room – only the most comfy chairs for the staff! Curious to know what a little girl thought about a place she was not privy to, I asked what went on in the staff room; apparently a lot of coffee was drunk and there was much discussion about the disorderly and naughty behaviour of class 7.

I wonder what goes on in these places we are not privy to. What conversations are held in the sitting room of number 11 Downing Street? What does the Queen talk about when she is alone with her family? Does Prince William lose his socks? Does the president of France watch soap operas?

We may not know what happens in these private places and there is no reason for us to know. We may speculate about others but it is what is between God and ourselves that matters for he knows the secrets of our hearts.

*"If we had forgotten the name of our God or spread out our hands to a foreign god would not God have discovered it since he knows the secrets of the heart". Psalm 44 :20-21.*

Only God knows the secrets of our hearts but he certainly knows.

*Enid*

*Some household tips from 1933*

Needles will not rust if kept in a piece of flannel that has been soaked in paraffin and allowed to dry. They can be kept for several years in a very damp climate, unspoiled, in a workbox not airtight!

Renovating Deck Chairs. — Get double the length of striped canvas, and fold it over the top rail as if for nailing on and then fold over the lower rail and make like roller towel, very strongly sewn together and hemmed. It can be pulled round as it gets worn and faded. It will last for years done this way ; it can also be turned when faded ; no nails are required and it is double the usual strength.

To save buying fresh reels of cotton for slight repairs to coloured frocks, keep a box of chalks and colour the white cotton to shade required. The chalked cotton proves lasting.

Flies.—Twenty drops of carbolic acid evaporated from a hot shovel will go far to banish flies from a room. A bit of camphor gum the size of a walnut held over a lamp until consumed will do the same for the mosquito.

NEVER wring towels long-ways. Gather them along the selvedge from end to end. This does away with the rending and tearing one often gets when wringing the other way, and thus doubles the life of the towel.

DROP all yolks of eggs which are not to be used for a day or so into a glass of cold water and stand in a cool place : this will keep them fresh.

WHEN washing glassware add a little washing blue to the water. This will give the glassware a clear and bright appearance.

WHEN meat or fish sandwiches are left over from a supper or picnic party, the following is an excellent method of re-dishing the sandwiches palatably. Melt some good dripping in a frying pan and put sandwiches in just as they are, and fry gently, until a golden brown. These are delicious

<b>Deanery Synod Reps</b>	Helen Bowes, Dave Rowlands
<b>P.C.C. Members</b>	Pete Kelly, Estella Woodhead, Anne Smith, Marylyn Hillman, Diane Morris, Liz Mason Phil Tunstall, Andy Stone, Shelagh Sanders
<b>Secretary</b>	Shelagh Sanders
<b>Treasurer</b>	Pete Kelly
<b>Envelopes, Gift Aid</b>	Richard Latos

## FLOWER ROTA

6th February	Flower Guild
13th February	Flower Guild
20th February	Flower Guild
27th February	Flower Guild



## ROADS FOR PRAYER

<b>6th February</b>	<b>13th February</b>
Rendel Grove	Joules Drive
Brindley Close	Cauldon Way
Rudyard Close	Harecastle Bank
Cressy Close	Saltersford Rise
<b>20th February</b>	<b>27th February</b>
Rolt Close	End Granville Terrace
Millenium Way	Millers Gate
Cameron Wharf	Hartley Drive
The Crescent	Regent Street

