

Christ Church and People

40p



May 2022

PARISH DIRECTORY

SUNDAY SERVICES

Details of our services are given on page 4.

THE PARISH TEAM

Vicar	Paul Kingman	812669
	The Vicarage, Bromfield Court	
Children & Families Worker	Peter Cuthbert	07733 042205
	peter.j.cuthbert@btinternet.com	
Electoral Roll Officer	Parish Office	811990
Parish Office	Christ Church Centre, Christ Church Way, Stone, Staffs ST15 8ZB	
	Email office@christchurchstone.org	811990

CHRIST CHURCH CENTRE

Booking Secretary	Parish Office	811990
--------------------------	---------------	--------

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

IN THIS ISSUE

May Calendar	4, 5
Real	6, 7
Trains in the garden 2022	7
Gospel Growth	7
Holiday Club	8
Hope explored	8
PCC News	8
Mission prayer diary	9-12
Easter Cards	13, 14
The chisel and the sculptor	14
Map needed	15
The Queen's Platinum Jubilee weekend	16
Archbishop of Canterbury's Easter sermon	17-19
Rotas, Roads for prayer	20

Christ Church



and People

Please send your articles for the June magazine to us by 15th May

Cover Picture
High Street

Magazine 40p each month or £4 each year. Money may be given to your magazine deliverer or handed in to the Church office

Christ Church on the Internet

Parish website

www.christchurchstone.org

Parish office email

office@christchurchstone.org

Magazine contributions

christchurch_mag@yahoo.co.uk

May 2022

	Date	Time	Events (Zoom codes in Mailchimp email)
Sun	1st	9:15 am 6:00 pm	Communion Rev 2:1-11 "love, fear and faith" Gospel growth
Mon	2nd		Bank Holiday
Tue	3rd	10:30 am 12:30 pm 7:30 pm	Communion 1 Cor 4:8-13 "Poor, yet rich" Pursuit Club CCA Hope explored
Wed	4th	9:00am	Christ Church First School assembly
Thu	5th	1:10 pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	6th		
Sat	7th		Prayer meeting
Sun	8th	9:15 am 6:00 pm	Morning Prayer Rev 2:12-29 "Truth and holiness" Gospel growth
Mon	9th	9:30 am	Toddler group
Tue	10th	10:30 am 12:30 pm 7:30 pm	Communion 2 Cor 1:3-11 "Suffering but comforted" Pursuit Club CCA Hope explored
Wed	11th	9:00 am 7:30 pm	Christ Church First School assembly Standing committee
Thu	12th	1:10 pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	13th		
Sat	14th		
Sun	15th	9:15 am 6:00 pm	Communion Rev 3:1-6 "Readiness" Gospel growth
Mon	16th	9:30 am	Toddler group
Tue	17th	10:30 am 12:30 pm	Communion 1 Cor 15:35-58 "Dying yet alive" Pursuit Club CCA

May 2022

	Date	Time	Events
Wed	18th	9:00 am	Christ Church First School assembly
Thu	19th	1:10 pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	20th	7:30 pm	Talk by Ray Pentland <i>"In Royal service—insights into HM the Queen's Jubilee preparations"</i>
Sat	21st		
Sun	22nd	9:15 am	All age service Rev 3:7-13 "Opportunity"
Mon	23rd	9:30 am	Toddler group
Tue	24th	10:30 am 12:30 pm	Communion Romans 12:1-8 "In the world but not of it" Pursuit Club CCA
Wed	25th	9:00 am 7:30 pm	Christ Church First School assembly PCC meeting
Thu	26th	1:10 pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	27th		
Sat	28th		
Sun	29th	9:15 am 6:00 pm	Morning Prayer Rev 3:14-22 "Wholeheartedness" Gospel growth
Mon	30th		
Tue	31st	10:30 am	Communion Mark 10:17-31 "Last but first"

Notes

St John's Oulton Sunday services

11:00 am each Sunday

All Saints Moddershall Sunday services

11:00 am Second and Fourth Sundays in month

If you would like to receive the Mailchimp email with Zoom codes and other notices, please contact the church office

I hope that you survived Choc Fest – the chocolate festival formerly known as Easter. One confectionary company made the positive move to produce *The Real Easter Egg* with its extra thick chocolate (palm oil and plastic free!) and a colourful story booklet inside to tell you about the real Easter with a competition to win a prize. I'm not on commission for mentioning it, but it is a feature of the world in which we live that we need a reminder of what is real. We've celebrated the most amazing event in history by remembering the resurrection of Jesus – we have eyewitness accounts that have changed people's lives for the last 2000 years because it was for real! Surely nothing can top that?

Sorry to disappoint, but six weeks on towards the end of the month is an even greater festival. It's not as popular commercially, which is possibly why it has become something of the Cinderella service: last in line and on a low budget. It's Ascension Day: the day Jesus returned to heaven. What happened? Why is it important?

The risen Jesus appeared to many: he was touched, he walked, talked, ate food with his followers and was seen by a large group of 500. His final instructions to his disciples were to wait in Jerusalem to be empowered by the Holy Spirit and then go out to spread the gospel worldwide. The report is brief: *'And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight'* (Acts 1v9). The brevity of the description doesn't flag up the significance. The rest of the New Testament details Jesus' completed work and ongoing ministry from heaven so that we can receive mercy and grace. But there is a tailpiece not to overlook: *'And while they were gazing into*

heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven." (Acts 1v10-11).

(continued)



The ascension of Jesus was bodily and visible, as it was for real. The return of Jesus will be bodily and visible, as it will be for real. We are to live in the light of this great hope as we spread the word and live for the risen, reigning and returning Lord Jesus.

Paul Kingman

Trains in the garden

Trains ran again in Pete and Liz's garden on Saturday 16th April (Easter Saturday). Quite a lot of cake was eaten and £730 was raised for Jigsaw Kids Ministry in Manila. Thanks to everyone who came, helped and bought cake.

Gospel Growth

Becoming a Faith-Filled Person

The studies focus is on the role of faith in the transformation of Christians by the power of the gospel. In this ten-session series we will cover topics including living by faith, spiritual disciplines, faith and repentance, the power of the Spirit, and how identifying with the suffering, death, and resurrection of Christ grows us to be like Christ. Study guide £7.99 orders to Paul no later than Sunday 24th April. Please also let me know whether we can meet in person or prefer to do so by zoom. We will plan to meet at 6pm unless those interested agree another time that is better.

Paul Kingman

Holiday Club

We would love to know if you are interested and able to help with running a children's holiday club at the end of August. The set up would be Monday 29th August then running the rest of the week to Friday 2nd September. Please let us know.

Paul and Sue Kingman

Hope Explored

There are few emotions more powerful than hope. It's a spark inside you that brings a smile to your lips; a light that shows on your face; a feeling that lifts your head and pulls you forward. Hope is what keeps us alive. But these days hope often feels hard to come by. Yet real hope is what the Christian faith claims to offer: a joyful expectation for the future, based on true events in the past, which changes everything about my present.

In three short sessions we will look at some of the words from Isaiah 9 about the promise of a future child being born who would be known as 'wonderful counsellor, mighty God, everlasting father, the prince of peace'. These words are fulfilled in Jesus Christ. They are the basis for Christian hope.

We will meet on Tuesdays at 7.30 pm at the vicarage on 26th April, 3rd & 10th May using a mixture of discussion and video input. Please contact me to reserve a place so that we can cater for you.

Paul Kingman

PCC news

The PCC held a meeting on 21st March 2022 in person and on Zoom. During the meetings the following matters were discussed:

- There will be a talk by Ray Pentland on Friday 20th May "In Royal Service"
- Friday 24th June is the date for a performance of James Carey's play "Water into Wine".
- The projector in the church centre has been replaced by a monitor which will provide improved wifi links for screening from laptops, tablets and phones.

The next PCC meeting will be held on Wednesday 25th May at 7.30pm.

Mission Prayer Diary	
	<i>Scripture Union</i>
1st	Pray that the summer programme can go ahead in 2022, and that we have an abundance of volunteer applications to enable the holidays and missions to run safely to their full potential
2nd	Please pray for the work of putting together daily Bible reading guides as the deadline for Jan-Mar 2023 approaches.
3rd	Pray for the Finance and Services team as they finalise the financial statements and prepare for the auditors to start their review in the next 3 weeks
4th	The “Go Wild” holiday will run at the end of May. Please pray that children will have fun making new friends and experiencing the adventure of following Jesus
	<i>Stephen and Tabita Bell are planting churches in Croatia</i>
5th	Varazdin – Church members are looking after some Ukrainian refugees, two are staying with a church member and other church members are helping with meals etc for refugees
6th	Stephen and Tabita now have a Ukrainian family from Kiev living with them– Maria, Daniel (3) and Diana (9 months). Husband Sergei was not allowed to leave Ukraine and is staying with his parents. He may be required to fight.
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 given up the rented house in Varazdin to be with the Ukrainian family and are commuting to and from Varazdin (50 km) to their new church.
	<i>TearFund works with many poor communities across the world. They especially work through local churches and agencies</i>
9th	Around the world, 80% of children in orphanages have a living parent. Pray for partner organisation M’lup Russey in Cambodia, who is re-integrating children from institutions with their families

10th	Tearfund partner PhilRads is helping people in The Philippines to recover from cyclone damage in 2020. Fishermen lost their boats and farmers their crops
11th	PhilRad is also helping those whose houses were destroyed in the cyclone. In areas of poverty, rebuilding a house is an expense beyond many
12th	In Yemen Tearfund partners are running courses in how to set up solar-powered lights and solar cookers. Partners are also supporting women who have suffered from domestic violence
	<i>Our CMS Link Missionaries Tim and Kate Lee helped to set up JigSaw Kids Ministries in Manila (Philippines)</i>
13th	The van appeal has been greatly rewarded and the new van has arrived in Manila and is already at work delivering food, medical supplies and Bible materials to several areas in the city
14th	Jigsaw hands out packs to more than 2000 children and young people each week. Children wait excitedly outside their homes for their weekly Jigsaw Kids At Home pack with Bible, literacy and craft activities plus a delicious meal bag
15th	Pray for the 76 students in Jigsaw's education sponsorship programme as they continue online education, for God's power to be with them and for God's love to grow in their lives
16th	Pastor Lendehl has been very seriously ill with bilateral pneumonia but has made a remarkable recovery. His lungs are now clear and the pain in his hands and feet has lessened. Please pray for a complete recovery

	<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	Thank you again for standing with us through Jonathan Jr's healing process and the final miracle in a Uganda Hospital Theatre.
18th	The Christian Orthopaedic Surgeon decided to do the Last check to confirm if God had done the miracle we have all been waiting for since August 10, 2021. And there it was. So much bone growth that could not be explained without God
19th	Pray for Rev Dr Edward Turitwenka, who hopes to continue the work started by the Beesigomwes.
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.</i>
21st	In September 2021 MAF ran a 3-day Peace and Reconciliation workshop in Malakai, a city which changed hands 12 times during South Sudan's civil war. Pray for lasting peace in the region, upholding the 34,000 people living in UN refugee camps because of the fighting
22nd	Pray for the protection and care of God's creation as MAF continues to support African Parks, a conservation organisation protecting the long-term health of animals in national parks in 11 African countries
23rd	Give thanks for the Aerial Health Patrol flights in partnership with Kompiam Rural Hospital, PNG. Pray for the doctors, nurses, community health workers, dentists and pastors who work together to meet wide-ranging needs

24th	Pray for Christians growing in faith in Arua and Moyo, Uganda. We've been flying MAF partner Crossway there to provide churches with Bibles and preaching materials in their own language
	<i>The Bible Society's Bible-a-month club is delivering Bible resources in Syria</i>
25th	Thank God that so many people of all ages continue to open their hearts to the word of God in Syria. Praise the Lord that his light shines brightly even in the darkest places
26th	Pray for protection for all members of Bible Society teams in Aleppo, Homs and Damascus
27th	Pray for a planned fourth Bible Society team in the very challenged and needy north-east region of Syria
28th	A contractor called Abu came to install a heater in the Aleppo office and asked for a Bible. He said he is now the only person in his block of flats with a Bible. Pray for Abu as he returns and tells the others in his block about the Bible
	<i>Church Mission Society supports mission workers across the world, including our link missionaries Tim and Kate Lee</i>
29th	In Brazil, pray for girls in a safe house run by ReVive. They are there because they are at risk or because they have been abused. A local church hopes to start a fostering service
30th	CMS supports the Dorcas Dress Project in Leicester working with garment factory workers who are isolated because they have poor English and come from several different countries. Pray that as they learn English they will also see the church at work
31st	Mission partners Ben and Katy Ray have provided training and employment opportunities for people with disabilities, in the Neema Crafts Centre, Tanzania. They hope now to move to a new work in Arusha, Tanzania. Pray that God will provide the right person to take over the Neema Crafts Centre

Easter Cards

'With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus.

And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all, that there was no needy person among them.' Acts 4: 33-34a

From some of our Mission Partners, in response to the Easter cards we sent to them:

Stephen and Tabita – European Church Mission

Thanks so much for this thoughtful and encouraging card with your well wishes and support.

It is great to know that we are all living for Christ (well and truly RISEN) together.

Much love and best wishes,

Jonathan and Robinah Beesigomwe – Family Connections: Bows and Arrows

We praise the Lord for you Elizabeth and Christ Church. Thank you for your love, prayers and support. We know God chose you as a body of Christ to help fulfil some purposes in Botswana. We look back and just Praise God.

Thank you again for standing with us through Jonathan Jr's healing process and the final miracle in a Uganda Hospital Theatre. The Christian Orthopaedic Surgeon decided to do the Last check to confirm if God had done the miracle we have all been waiting for since August 10, 2021. And there it was. So much bone growth that could not be explained without God

Wishing you warm Easter Greetings. Happy Easter.

Mircea Pestean – Maranatha Missions

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Thank of thinking to me. Very busy this days but surviving....

Jesus Christ is Rosen the reason for the season

(spelling as received)

Tim and Kate Lee – Jigsaw Kids' Ministries

Thank you for your Easter greetings.

We look forward to seeing you at Pete and Liz's Trains Day.

Matthew Leung – U.C.C.F.

It's been a while! Almost a whole term passed since my last prayer letter, and it's been busy, both with the excitement of student ministry and also personally. But with students beginning to head home for the Easter holidays, it's finally given me time to share what I've been up to and what's coming up! Matthew also announced his engagement to Rosie. We wish them all the best for their future life together.

(Extracted from Matthew's latest newsletter available in 'Mission Matters' folder)

Elizabeth

The chisel and the Sculptor

A skilled wood carver surveys his latest partly finished work. Beside it on his bench are many chisels of different shapes and sizes. He carefully selects one and continues to carve.

The chisel has no idea what the final masterpiece will look like, but the creator has a clear vision in his mind of what he will achieve. After a few minutes the chisel is put down in a pile along with several other tools which have already been used. He picks up a different chisel which then lies passive in his hand ready for action.

The pile of blunt chisels is not forgotten, and after a while the craftsman gathers them together to be re-sharpened and made ready for the next phase in his work.

We share this mysterious work with many other Christians and need to come together regularly in worship to be "sharpened up" Do we start each day simply ready to be used as Our Father wishes? In this way we can be chosen again to carry out whatever task the Father's has in mind. Whether our part is large or small, it is valuable in establishing the Kingdom of God.

Roger

Map needed

We were lost, not totally lost you understand, we knew where we had come from and could easily have retraced our steps but we were perplexed. The instructions we had been given said "take the bridle path and follow the blue arrows". However the bridle path went more than one way and there were no blue arrows to be seen in any direction. What were we to do? We could easily return to the beginning of the walk but this was a circular walk and we had no wish to be defeated.

Being in the middle of a wood meant that we couldn't see very far ahead; we had a compass and there was a map sign board for the wood but it was more by trial and error that we found our way between the trees and out onto the other side of the wood. Even so we were not at the next place in our instructions so we were very pleased to see the monument which was definitely in the instructions.

Our five mile walk, that day, turned out to be 8 miles but we were happy to be out for the day seeing some beautiful scenery (when we were out of the woods!) It seems the instructions we were given were incomplete and we also needed a better map, which would certainly have helped.

In our daily lives we need directions, we may know where we have come from but do we know where we are going? What finer place to look than the Bible and what a wonderful verse there is in Psalm 119.

Often used as a memory verse in the days of Pathfinder camp and Sunday school these are words worth learning: "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path" Psalm 119 :105 or in a more modern version "Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path".

Enid

2nd – 5th June 2022

These four days of celebration will include public events and community activities, as well as national moments of reflection on The Queen's 70 years of service.

Thursday 2nd June:

- **The Queen's Birthday Parade** (Trooping the Colour)
- **Platinum Jubilee Beacon chain** across the UK and the Commonwealth

Friday 3rd June:

- **Service of Thanksgiving** at St Paul's Cathedral

Saturday 4th June:

- **A Day at the Races:** The Derby at Epsom Downs
- **Platinum Party at the Palace:** The BBC will stage and broadcast a special live concert from Buckingham Palace

Sunday 5th June:

- **The Big Jubilee Lunch:** People are invited to share friendship, food and fun with people in their neighbourhood and community
- **The Platinum Jubilee Pageant:** celebrating the story of The Queen's 70-year reign, in an awe-inspiring festival of arts and creativity.

What are you planning to do that weekend?

Maybe you would like to write a short article for the next church magazine, telling everyone how you celebrated the wonderful achievement of our Queen – 70 years faithful service and dedication.

Elizabeth

In the UK, we might be waking up to lighter mornings and warmer days, but families across the country are waking up to cold homes and empty stomachs as we face the greatest cost of living crisis we have known in our lifetimes. And because of this they wake up with fear.

Further afield, people are waking up to horrors they never imagined possible. Last month, President Zelensky gave a speech in which he said 'the end of the world has arrived'. Ukrainians have woken up to the end of the world as they knew it. Now they are awakened by the noises of war, and the sickening reality of terror. They wake up to mortal fear.

Imagine Mary's waking thoughts on that first Easter morning. Her state of mind must have been grim. The deepest desire for it all to be different. Anger at the disciples for running away. Misery at the thought of the task before her.

Such a sense of helplessness will have been common this morning. Many will be awakening in refugee camps, separated from loved ones still on the front line, grieving for those missing, raped, abused, or killed. Wondering how to cope. Mary and her companions did not know how to cope with the stone in front of the tomb. "What will we do?"

This bad awakening was justified. The tasks were impossible. The events of the past days traumatic. Strength could not meet the demand. For many in this country the news from Ukraine is terrible, but the rising cost of power, fuel and basic food will be the first and overwhelming thought of the day. For others it will be the continued deep sense of loss of someone from Covid, or during Covid, to whom they could not say a proper farewell. The news might move on, but grief does not.

Others will be struggling at work, or feel a deep sense of injustice at the way they have been mistreated by family, friends or employers. Sorrow is often a private burden, betrayal a private wound, grief and disappointment private agonies. We focus on the great events of the day in the news, rightly: yet every life has its own traumas, joys, celebrations and laments. The first Easter was experienced by individuals, not by the world on social media.

(continued)

What does the resurrection of Jesus Christ have to say not just to our common fears, but to those that are individually felt?

First, God doesn't just recognise the horrors and the sufferings of the world: he enters into them on the Cross. In dying for us, he sees and knows the wounds that cause us so much pain. He hears the cry of the mothers in Ukraine, he sees the fear of boys too young to become soldiers, and he knows the vulnerability of the orphans and refugees. Closer to home, he sees the humiliation of the grandparent visiting the foodbank for the first time, the desperate choice of parents in poverty and the grief and weariness of the pandemic.

The resurrection of Jesus is not a magic wand that makes the world perfect. But the resurrection of Christ is the tectonic shift in the way the cosmos works. It is the conquest of death and the opening of eternal life, through Jesus a gift offered to every human being who reaches out to him. Not just for individuals, but setting a benchmark for every society because God is Lord of every society and nation.

This is what we proclaim at Easter. It is a season of life and hope, of repentance and renewal. This week in the Eastern Orthodox world it is Holy Week, the greatest time for repentance. Muslims are in Ramadan, a time for purification and change, coming to Eid. Jews celebrate the Passover and liberation. Let this be a time for Russian ceasefire, withdrawal and a commitment to talks. This is a time for resetting the ways of peace, not for what Bismarck called blood and iron. Let Christ prevail! Let the darkness of war be banished.

And this season is also why there are such serious ethical questions about sending asylum seekers overseas. The details are for politics and politicians. The principle must stand the judgement of God and it cannot. It cannot carry the weight of resurrection justice, of life conquering death. It cannot carry the weight of the resurrection that was first to the least valued, for it privileges the rich and strong. And it cannot carry the weight of our national responsibility as a country formed by Christian values, because sub-contracting out our responsibilities, even to a country that seeks to do well like Rwanda, is the opposite of the nature of God who himself took responsibility for our failures.

(continued)

Through the historical reality of the resurrection of Jesus, God gives our lives purpose and our society resilience. God calls nations to live in the knowledge of God's love through Jesus, springing up in us by the gift of God's Spirit as permanent place of refreshing in dry places, and hope in dark places. That is true global power.

More than that, the resurrection, in its conquest of death, promises each individual a life that is abundant and will overflow into eternity.

It promises each nation, and every victim and survivor, that the injustices, cruelties, evil deeds and soulless institutions of this world do not have the last word.

That last word is God's victory shout, the offer of life as possession, of a death sentence for the wickedness of this world, of justice against the evildoer. None will escape justice, and all are offered mercy where there is true repentance, sorrow for sin and surrender to Christ.

Jesus is alive – and he addresses head on all of our fears, together and alone. It means whilst we wake in a world so often characterised by pain and suffering, there is another more defining, more compelling, more true story to wake up to.

It is not complicated to receive the gift of the life of Christ. It costs no more than to surrender our lives to God, lives we cannot keep. In that surrender we join the journey into life everlasting, we are caught in his hands as was Mary who returned to the disciples saying "I have seen the Lord". Jesus' resurrection, dead first, now alive, changed history. It changed societies, shaped nations. It calls us each to live resurrection shaped and filled lives now, and to mould resurrection filled societies in our world today and in the future.

(This sermon was read by many commentators and reported in most of the newspapers, so seems very worthy of inclusion here)

Groups and Rotas

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

FLOWER ROTA

1st May	Mrs D. Pickles
8th May	
15th May	Mrs D. Tunstall
22nd May	
29th May	Mrs S. Vaughan

SIDESPERSIONS

Jacqueline Abrahams
Dave Rowlands
Judith Kelt
Pete Kelly
Pam Roberts

ROADS FOR PRAYER

1st May
Dominic Court
King's Avenue
Longton Road
Margaret Street

8th May
Newcastle Street
Newcastle Road
Northesk Street
Radford Close

15th May
Radford Street
Station Road
The Avenue
Trent Road

22nd May
Tunley Street
Trinity Drive
Airdale Grove
Airdale Road

29th May
Airdale Spinney
Cross Street
Nicholls Lane
Old Road

