



Christ Church and People

Parish Magazine of
Christ Church Stone

40p



PARISH DIRECTORY

SUNDAY SERVICES

Details of our services are given on pages 2 and 3.

Young people's activities take place in the Centre at 9.15 am
(see inside back page for details)

THE PARISH TEAM

Vicar	Paul Kingman The Vicarage, Bromfield Court	812669
Curate	Andy Cranston 1 Navigation Loop	818983
Youth and Children's Worker	Kieran McKnight	600734 07731984755
Electoral Roll Officer	Irene Gassor	814871
Parish Office	Christ Church Centre, Christ Church Way, Stone, Staffs ST15 8ZB Email christchurch.centre1@btinternet.com	811990
Deaconess (Retired)	Ann Butler	818160
Readers	Dave Bell John Butterworth David Rowlands Michael Thompson Cecilia Wilding	815775 817465 816713 813712 817987
Music Co-ordinator	Pete Mason	815854
Wardens	Andy Stone David Rowlands	816713
Deputy Wardens	Phil Tunstall, Arthur Foulkes, Tim Saxton	

CHRIST CHURCH CENTRE

Booking Secretary	Kate or Irene	(Office)	811990
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CHURCH SCHOOLS

Christ Church C.E.(Controlled) First School, Northesk Street.

Head: Mrs Lynne Croxall B.Ed.(Hons)	354125
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Christ Church Academy, Old Road

Head: C. Waghorn B.Ed(Hons),DPSE,ACP,FRSA	354047
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Christ Church



and People

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

Cover Story:-
King's
Avenue

Subscriptions

If you would like this magazine delivered to you regularly, please contact:
Mrs Marylyn Hillman, Park Lodge, Beech Court, Stone. Tel 815936

April 2012

Sun	1	9:15am 6:00pm	Morning Prayer: Mark 15:33-47 "Dead and buried" Evening Prayer at St. John's, Oulton Isaiah 55 "The poor man's market"
Mon	2		
Tue	3	10:00am	Coffee before midweek service; service at 10:30am
Wed	4	7:30pm	Standing Committee
Thu	5	7:30pm	Maundy Thursday Communion at St. John's Oulton
Fri	6	10:00am 10:00am 10:40am 7:30pm	Children's crafts in the Centre Procession of witness starts from St. Michael's Good Friday service in Christ Church with CTiS Mark 15:33-41 "The death of Jesus" St. Mark's Passion - Evening of music and meditation
Sat	7	8:30am	Prayer meeting followed by breakfast
Sun	8	9:15am 4:00pm 6:00pm	Easter Day Communion: Mark 16:1-8 "Absence and fear" Families at Four - a service for the whole family Communion at All Saints, Moddershall Isaiah 59:15-21 "The redeemer"
Mon	9	All day	Holiday Club set-up
Tue	10	10:00am 1:30pm	Coffee before midweek service; service at 10:30am Holiday Club - On Your Marks
Wed	11	1:30pm	Holiday Club - On Your Marks
Thu	12	1:30pm	Holiday Club - On Your Marks
Fri	13	1:30pm	Holiday Club - On Your Marks
Sat	14		
Sun	15	9:15am 2:30pm 6:00pm	Holiday Club service Mark 12:1-12 "The foundation stone" Autumn House service Communion at St John's Oulton Isaiah 60 "Arise! Shine!"

Mon	16	6:30pm	Breathe yrs 5-8
Tue	17	9:30am 10:00am 12:30pm 3:45pm 7:00pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before midweek service; service at 10:30am Seekers Club Lighthouse yrs 2-4 Youth Club yrs 9-13
Wed	18		
Thu	19	1:20pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	20		
Sat	21		
Sun	22	9:15am 10:30am 4:00pm 6:00pm	Communion; Revelation 1:1-20 "The living one" Fairtrade goods stall in the Centre Christ Church APCM Evening Prayer at St. John's Oulton John 1:29-42 "The Lamb of God"
Mon	23	6:30pm	Breathe yrs 5-8
Tue	24	9:10am 10:00am 12:30pm 3:45pm 7:00pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before midweek service; service at 10:30am Seekers Club Lighthouse yrs 2-4 Youth Club yrs 9-13
Wed	25		
Thu	26	1:20pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	27		
Sat	28		
Sun	29	9:15am 4:00pm 6:00pm	Morning Prayer: Revelation 1:1-11 "Love, fear and faith" Families at Four - a service for the whole family Communion at St. John's Oulton John 3:1-21 "New birth"
Mon	30	6:30pm	Breathe yrs 6-8

Water shortage? Return to the source

We're used to having plenty of water in this country. We take the green countryside for granted. We assume that we can wash regularly. We know that water gushes out of the tap when opened so that it's no problem to quench our thirst.

So, it was a surprise to hear that water companies in southern and eastern England have said they will impose water restrictions after two very dry winters have left reservoirs, aquifers and rivers below normal levels. Hosepipe bans are the first step from the beginning of this month. The area now under official drought is slowly moving northwards and is expected to include parts of Yorkshire soon, although Scotland is fine!

Palestine, where Jesus lived, is rather more accustomed to scarce supplies of water and elevated temperatures that bake everything dry. Jesus used the experience of being thirsty as a metaphor for our spiritual need and said that he alone could meet this need: *'On the last and greatest day of the Feast [the Feast of Tabernacles involved water pouring ceremonies] Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him". By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given since Jesus had not yet been glorified'* (John 7v37-39).

Jesus is saying that he can satisfy this thirst for a personal knowledge of God. This is open to all believe in Jesus: who put their full trust in his death on that first Good Friday, which alone secures forgiveness for all who acknowledge their sin; to fully trust in his resurrection that first Easter Sunday, to put right with God all who abandon their own efforts to gain a right standing with God. The result of forgiveness is the gift of the Spirit of Jesus: the Spirit assures us that we now belong to God our Father in heaven and enables us to follow the way of Christ.

So, all who are spiritually thirsty should come to Jesus who is the source of an abundant supply of living water: the Spirit of Christ is life giving and never ending.

The Easter services (details in this magazine) help us to discover what Jesus did so that we no longer need thirst for God but can be satisfied. Join us if you can.

Paul Kingman



The Lamb that died

One of the joys of spring is watching new born lambs frolicking in the fields. However, it's a special and rare privilege to be around while a lamb is being born. Last April we spent a few days on a farm in Scotland and with lambs being born daily the excitement wasn't restricted to Joanna and Phoebe! Each morning after breakfast we would wander up to the lambing sheds to greet the new arrivals, secretly hoping we might get to see some being born!

On our last morning we arrived as farmer Willie and his wife, Elizabeth, were pondering the situation of a new-born lamb – Langsam. He'd been rejected by his mother who had decided that one lamb was enough and no matter how hard little Langsam tried mum would not let him feed. 'Poor Langsam' said Joanna before skipping off into the field. Out in the field meanwhile, a ewe was in labour and as I hurried after Joanna it was apparent that the birth was imminent. I barely had time to pick up Joanna and call to the others before the ewe stood up and delivered her lamb. It was amazing but as the ewe walked away it was clear that there was something wrong. It didn't take Willie long to reach the ewe on his Quad bike but by the way he picked up the lamb and dropped it in the trailer it was evident that the lamb had been stillborn. "Daddy, why's the lamb not moving?" came a voice from my shoulder. As Willie headed back to the shed I pondered how to begin my explanation.

We trudged slowly back to the shed – doing my best to tackle each subsequent "Why?" as it came. I could see that Willie and Elizabeth had been busy in one of the pens as we walked back but it was only once we got there that we saw what they'd been up to. Langsam was wearing a coat and was being licked by the mother that had just delivered in the field. While we had been walking back Willie had skinned the dead lamb and clothed Langsam in it thus making him acceptable to his new mother. "Langsam got new mummy" beamed Joanna "but why's he wearing a coat?!"

I can't remember how I replied to that "Why?" question exactly but as we contemplate the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus once again this Easter, it's a wonderful picture of how we become acceptable to God. As Paul says to the Galatians in chapter 3:

²⁶ You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, ²⁷ for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.

The Lamb dies. We clothe ourselves with him. God accepts us as his own. The tragedy becomes a triumph!

Andy

When we were moving into our last parish a drunk called on us, demanding money. I got him to paint some bookshelves and paid him for it. I always regretted that because he left terrible streaks of paint on the shelves. Dave became part of the cycle of church life in that parish, a bit like “Colin” in Rev! He would be away for months as a guest of her Majesty and then return without warning. When he was sober he deeply regretted hurting his mum and would ask for prayer at the back of church. When he was drunk he would throw books at the lesson reader and disrupt the service. Thirteen years later when we left that parish and packed our streaky bookshelves Dave turned up and said to Jane, “Hey, Babe! We go back a long way.” It certainly felt like that. I expect most parishes have a Colin or a Dave.

But first, a big “Thank you” to all of you. Thank you for your faithfulness to the Gospel, your continued ministry in this Diocese and for continuing to give financially to support the mission and ministry of your own local church, and other churches throughout out large and diverse diocese.

It’s wonderful that in the depths of a recession when many are seeing their incomes fall, and outgoings rise, you have continued to give. This has meant that the parishes have contributed almost all of what we asked of them, and we have been able to pay the clergy stipends.

Although the figures show that we are in a stronger position than many other dioceses, five issues concern us:

- 1) Statistics project that 40% of our clergy will have retired by 2020.
- 2) Pensions are costing more and more of our expenses.
- 3) The Lichfield share of the old pension surplus of around £650,000 p.a. will cease next year; there is no indication as yet that parishes are willing and able to raise that extra money.
- 4) Parish Share is taking a large part of parish income and so parish reserves are eroding.
- 5) Because some parishes have paid their Share only at the last minute we have had to borrow money—because we don’t want the clergy to have to wait until the end of the year before being paid. If more paid more by direct debit we wouldn’t have to pay to borrow.

So as a diocese we have a simple choice. Either we give more, or we will have to make some cuts in the number of stipends. *(continued)*

The figures are not huge. On average we each give 3.2% of our money away, which is a great deal less than a tithe or tenth. And our situation isn't driven by finance alone. With the number of retirements expected within the next decade, we also need people to respond to the call of God. Of course we are all called to ministry of one sort or another, the question is, who, in your parish or benefice, is being called to ordained or authorised lay ministry? Could it be you?

A year ago we launched the "Plain Speaking" process so that every deanery and PCC would be able to see where they are on a grid which measures resources on one axis and mission on the other. The results have now come in and will enable everyone to make comparisons about sustainability and how much we should step out in faith for particular parishes.

It will be up to each PCC and each Deanery to come before God and pray for guidance about where, as a diocese, we should place our resources, and where our clergy should be deployed. If the current financial situation remains, we are looking at a reduction of at least 13 clergy over the next two years. This is a small number out of the 300 stipendiary clergy in the Diocese and small compared with the much larger cuts being made elsewhere, but it is large for a diocese which has been "going for growth." However we have always known that pruning is part of healthy growth. We have time to bring before God our requests and to ask him humbly to provide the extra resources we need.

So my message to you is not a despondent one, nor is it about decline or shrinkage, because God is doing great work among us, and we are listening out for His guidance.

Have you noticed that the Four Primary Purposes have been refreshed into five themes, partly prompted by the visit of the Archbishop of Canterbury last year? They are:

1) **Discovering the Heart of God.** (The Rule of Life card and the new Community of St Chad are two initiatives designed to revive our worship and prayer life.

(continued on next page)

2) **Growing Disciples.** As we look ahead to a changed church by 2020 it is clear that in many places our lay people are a largely unused resource. For over 40 years we have emphasized the calling of all the baptized to be the Church. Ever since the Tiller report we have spoken of moving from a static view of church, as a priest with a congregation and a beautiful building, to a dynamic view of a group of Christians being trained for the Kingdom and building a loving community.

3) **Reaching New Generations.** One of my deepest wishes is to bring more children and young people into our churches and to a living faith; and I have asked for a new youth strategy to be developed this year.

4) **Transforming Communities.** We are making new, exciting connections between the world of work and our faith and to address the global need for a more moral market.

5) **Practising Generosity.** God has given us more than enough resources to be his Church—and these resources are in our bank accounts!

We trust that these five themes will help us prioritise, and will guide us as a diocese in our discipleship and faithfulness. You can find them on the Rule of Life Prayer card or on the Diocesan Website.

So I invite all churches to set aside a suitable date as a day of prayer for renewal and growth in Lichfield Diocese.

A few weeks ago, out of the blue, after 15 years, we received a letter from Dave the Drunk. Did we remember him? Yes we certainly did! He told us he'd moved to a new town, he'd been dry for 12 years, he'd become a Christian, and now spent his time in an agency helping others come off drink. In God's mercy apparently hopeless situations can change. And we are called to be agents of hope for God, in all our churches.

May 2012 be an exciting year, as we face the challenges of our time with courage and determination.

Heavenly Father, send your gracious Holy Spirit upon us, so that we can discover your heart;

grow new disciples, reach new generations, transform communities and practice generosity together.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord

Amen

The Rt Revd Jonathan Gledhill, Bishop of Lichfield

Families 44

Christ Church's new monthly service for all the family!
 With Cake, craft, songs and Bible stories.
 Starting @4pm done by 5pm
 Come and join the fun on

April 8 (Easter)	April 29
May 13	June 10
July 8	



We look forward to seeing you!

For more information contact Andy Cranston on 818983 or
acranston.ccstone@gmail.com

Stone & District Stroke Club

The Stone & District Stroke Club has three vacancies at the moment. The club aims to give care and support to people who have had strokes and for their families. The club enables those who have had a stroke to get out and about and enjoy social activities.

We meet at Little Stoke Cricket Club, Uttoxeter Road, Stone 10.30am-2.30pm.

Transport is available if required and lunch is provided.

We have quizzes, recreational exercises, games, speakers and outings during the summer months.

If anyone is interested in joining the club and would like a visit from someone to tell them more about the club please ring Stella Winsor on 01785 603707.

African Pastors' Fellowship

We, at Christ Church have supported the African Pastors' Fellowship for many years – it was first made known to us by Bertie Manse.

The following is a summary of the Fellowship's work in the words of the Fellowship:

‘African Pastors’ Fellowship works alongside local churches in East Africa in training and equipping church leaders for the task of building the churches in their knowledge and understanding of being a biblical Christian. We work with all main denominations, including Anglican, Baptist, Pentecostal and many independent churches.

‘Training takes place through one-week refresher courses for pastors and wives on different aspects of being a pastor. All sessions involve Bible teaching.

‘Equipping of church leaders is accomplished through Bible Commentaries and Bible-story picture books and classroom picture sets. We also train people in writing Bible study materials for small groups and those writing commentaries. All of the materials are primarily in Swahili with some books being available in other local languages.

‘Pastoral support is also offered through a scheme to help pastors buy subsidised bicycles and with training and provision of small loans for home-based income generating projects.’

Cecilia Wilding

News from Adam and Helen-Clare

Adam has been called to be the pastor of The People's Mission in South Shields, Tyne-and-Wear! We have only just found out so do not have all the details, moving date, etc, yet, but we think from here everything will move quite swiftly. So we certainly have some exciting months ahead of us! Adam and I have both been feeling a love growing for the congregation of the People's Mission and a desire to serve them and the community we will be joining. We look forward to settling down and ministering long-term. We are greatly encouraged to see how Jesus has worked through our circumstances to bring us to this point. We know there will be plenty of challenges ahead as well. We would like to ask for your continued prayers as we look for a house, make the move and begin our ministry with The People's Mission. *Adam and Helen-Clare*

The P.C.C. met on 1st February 2012 and the following matters were discussed:

- The first Families at 4 session, held on Sunday 29th January was a great success. About 47 people attended, 13 families comprising of 28 adults and 19 children. Many were non-regular church goers. The feedback was very positive. The structure of the session was start with refreshments and a craft then games and a bible story. Mrs L. Kelly reported that she went with friends and found the interaction with everyone was very good. A vote of thanks was given to Rev A Cranston, Mrs Cranston and all involved. Also thanks goes to Mr S Garrington-Miller for producing the posters and leaflets.
- Forthcoming services/events:
 Mothering Sunday: March 18th
 Maundy Thursday HC
 Good Friday morning craft & service
 Good Friday evening: scripture and song.
 Easter Sunday service: morning; FAF; evening at Moddershall.
 Children's Holiday Club: *'On your marks!'* to include in preparation some safeguarding training.
- Rico Tice and Craig Dyer will be visiting Christchurch on Saturday 12th May to carry out evangelism training morning for ourselves and other churches in the North Staffordshire area. To strengthen our ongoing witness and also to prepare for **AP4L** in 2014 with the aim of reaching 'as yet unreached' within our community.
- It was agreed that we should look into promoting the hire of the centre better especially for parties.
- This years Christmas card raised £140. Thank your to George for the artwork.
- The piano in the centre has been repaired and tuned. We now have a set of keys to lock it and these will be kept in the office.

Shelagh

March's meeting welcomed David and Beth from 'Hammersleys' in the High Street. David, formerly Sales Director with Greggs, has owned the shop for 4 years and expanded the business to 8 shops.

Beth has worked at Hammersleys for 37 years and, although having no formal training, has entered and won many cake decorating competitions. The bakery for the 8 shops is based in Cheadle and uses top ingredients and jam made especially for them. They also supply business such as Trentham Gardens and Alton Towers.



We had a 'Generation Game' style making of an Easter cake. From ready made sponges, our president followed Beth filling and decorating a cake which she took home and Beth's was used as a prize.

If you would like to join us, you will find a warm welcome at our meetings on the first Wednesday of the month at Christ Church Centre from 2-4pm. Our April meeting is on 'Well Dressing'.

And, finally the best selling cake from 'Hammersleys' is.....
(Answer on page 15)

Jeanette

Funny Christians

A new Christian wrote to the Inland Revenue:-

*"I can't sleep at night so I am enclosing £100 I forgot to declare."
"PS, If I still can't sleep I will send the rest."*

Seen in a newspaper in India:-

Sacred to the memory of Revd. Pugh who, after twenty years of unremitting labour as a Missionary, was accidentally shot by his native bearer.

"WELL DONE THOU GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT"

Christ Church Stone invites you to

ON YOUR MARKS..

a Holiday Club for children in Reception - Year 6

**Games, songs, Bible stories, craft, drama,
refreshments**

Christ Church Centre, Stone

10th - 13th April 2012

1.30 - 3.30 pm

Holiday Club Service: Sunday 15th April 9.15 am

For booking forms contact the Church Office on

01785 811990

On Your Marks holiday club 10th - 13th April

Preparations are under way. The theme has a topical Olympic sound (ring?). Following the international theme could anyone lend a world wall map (post colonial please)? We need several, also flags of different nations, any size, and bunting for decorating in the centre and church.

If you have any of the very thin plastic carrier bags in stripes and colours we have ideas to recycle them in the craft sessions. contact Dorothy 01785 812078

Arthur & Phil's Quiz night

At about 7.00pm on the evening of 3rd March 2012, 45 of us descended on Christ Church Centre for our famous, annual quiz night with quizmasters Arthur and Phil. Entry £2.00 – proceeds to church or youth funds.

The room was set up with tables around which were placed six chairs each. At the back of the room were plants and bulbs for sale and some competitions – guess how many beans were in a jar, how much a basket of vegetables weighed etc. at 50p a go.

The noise in the room rose to new levels as people chatted with friends and neighbours, catching up on news. Some were regulars from years before.

At about 7.15pm, Phil brought us to order and we sat in sixes round the tables. I usually refuse to be in a quiz team as I'm useless at knowing the answers. However, I was very lucky to be invited onto a table with four very knowledgeable quizzers.

Arthur had spent many hours recording voices for us to identify the speaker, music for us to name the composer or the name of the piece, name the singer etc; multiple choice questions about sport, music, films, and lots more. Well done, Arthur!! There were also sheets of pictures of sport and other personalities to name. We had a refreshment break part-way through, ably organised by Patricia.

In the end there had to be a winning table – not ours – but all went home happy after a thoroughly enjoyable evening bearing the plants they had bought and prizes they had won.

Thank you Arthur, Patricia, Phil & Diana

BOOK NOW FOR NEXT YEAR!!

Cecilia

Various Puzzles

Missing Letters

Here are some well-known Bible (NIV) verses, with every other letter missing. Can you complete them?

Froslvdhwr dh teaeioenolSnhtheebleeihmhlnteihuhveenlie

IteeinnwshWradhWrwsioadhWrwso

JssnwrdateaadhtuhnteieoncmsohFteecpruhe

Jumbled Letters

In these verses, all the letters are there, but the letters of each word are jumbled.

NI eht nnnggiieb oGd tdrceea the vnshae nda eth htrae

Rhnoou ryuo thfrea dna ryuo tmhreo os ttha uyo mya evil nolg ni the
dnaL eth dLro ryuo dGo si vgnii oyu

Cipher Text

These well-known NIV verses are written out fully, and the letters are in the correct order, but a cipher has been used to replace the letters. Each letter has always been replaced by the same letter.

Jo nz gpsnfs cppl, Uifpqijmvt J xspuf bcpvu bmm uibu Kftvt cfhbo up
ep boe up ufbdi.

Uifsfgpsf, uifsf jt opx op dpoefnobujpo gps uiptf xip bsf jo Disjtu Kftvt

SIDESPERSIONS ROTÆ

AM

1st Apr	A. West V. Ledward	J. Abrahams K. Thompson
8th Apr	D. Davies G. Holden	D. Pickles J. Rowlands
15th Apr	J. Hipkiss C. Wilding	D. Wilson T. MacFarlane
22nd Apr	A. West V. Ledward	J. Abrahams K. Thompson
29th Apr	D. Davies G. Holden	C. Wilding J. Rowlands

FLOWER ROTÆ

1st Apr	Lent	8th Apr	Easter
15th Apr	Flower Guild	22nd Apr	Mrs W. Carroll
29th Apr	Mrs P. Roberts		

ROADS FOR PRAYER

1st April

Bentley Close
Rendel Grove
Brindley Close
Rudyard Close

15th April

Saltersford Rise
Rolt Close
Millenium Way
Cameron Wharf

8th April

Cressey Close
Joules Drive
Cauldon Way
Harecastle Bank

22nd April

The Crescent
End Granville Terrace
Millers Gate
Hartley Drive



29th April

Albert Street
Alexandra Street
Arthur Street
Berkeley Street

Christ Church on the Internet

Parish website

www.christchurchstone.org

Parish office email

christchurch.centrel@btinternet.com

Magazine contributions

christchurch_mag@yahoo.co.uk

Deanery Synod Reps Mrs S Hallam, Mr D. Rowlands, Mr R. Brandon
P.C.C. Members Mrs I. Gassor, Mr D. Beauchamp, Mr G. Donaldson
 Mrs S. Sanders, Mrs D. Wilson, Mrs J. Abrahams
 Mrs K. Latham, Mr P. Mason, Mrs D. Hazlehurst
 Mrs A. Burton, Mrs M. Hillman, Mrs C. Snaith
 Mrs L. Kelly, Mr K. Reynolds, Mrs E. Woodhead

Secretary Shelagh Sanders
Treasurer Kevin Reynolds 851595
Envelopes, Gift Aid Richard Latos

GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

Climbers 3-7 years	Sandra Morray.....	286093
Explorers 7-11 years	Estella Woodhead.....	761659
Pathfinders 11-14 years	Enid Bell.....	815775
Banner Group	Jeanette Rowlands.....	816713
Church Missionary Boxes	Cecilia Wilding.....	817987
Flower Guild	Marylyn Hillman.....	815936
Men's Fellowship	Mike Thompson.....	813712
Missions Secretary	Cecilia Wilding.....	817987
Prayer Group	Jeanette Rowlands.....	816713
Parents & Toddlers (Mon 9.30 – 11.15am)	Sandra Morray.....	286093
3rd Stone Brownies (Mo 6:00-7:30pm, First School)	Janet Smith.....	815939

Young People's Activities take place in the Centre during the Sunday morning service except on the fourth Sunday in the month, which is the family service.

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

The following activities take place every week week in the Centre during term time.

Monday Toddlers 9.30 am

THE MAGAZINE TEAM

Mission News& Prayer Diary Cecilia Wilding 817987

Please send material for the magazine to

Dave Bell, c/o Christ Church Parish Office, Christ Church Way,
 Staffs ST15 8ZB or by email to christchurch_mag@yahoo.co.uk

Christ Church welcomes you!

Whether you are new to the Stone area or have been living here for some time you are welcome to come to this church. The church is made up of adults and children who want to know more about the living God, who has supremely revealed Himself in Jesus Christ and continues to speak to us through His Spirit-inspired word, the Holy Bible (which can be read online at www.biblegateway.com and we recommend a modern translation e.g. the New International Version or English Standard Version).

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

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

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

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

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

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