

Christ Church and People

Parish Magazine of
Christ Church Stone

40p



September 2015

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 page 18 for details)

THE PARISH TEAM

Vicar	Paul Kingman The Vicarage, Bromfield Court	812669
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 office@christchurchstone.org	811990
Deaconess (Retired)	Ann Butler	818160
Readers	Dave Bell Helen Bowes David Rowlands Michael Thompson Cecilia Wilding	815775 812317 816713 813712 817987
Music Co-ordinators	Pete Mason Sue Kingman	815854
Wardens	Andy Stone David Beauchamp	286526
Deputy Wardens	Phil Tunstall,	817028

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: Mr N. Chesters	354125
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Christ Church Academy, Old Road

Principal: Mr C. Wright MAEd	354047
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Christ Church



and People

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Please get your contributions for the October magazine to us by the 15th September

Cover Picture:-

Newcastle Road

The magazine costs 40p per issue or £4 for a full year.

Subscriptions

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

September 2015

Tue	1	10:00am	Coffee before midweek service; service at 10:30
Wed	2		
Thu	3		
Fri	4		
Sat	5		
Sun	6	9:15am 6:00pm	Communion; Psalm 1 "Two ways to live" Praise and Prayer
Mon	7		
Tue	8	10:00am 7:00pm	Coffee before midweek service; service at 10:30 Youth Club yrs 9-13
Wed	9	9:25am 6:00pm 7:30pm	Christ Church First School assembly KingZone yrs 2-4 Standing Committee
Thu	10	1:20pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	11		
Sat	12		
Sun	13	9:15am 3:00pm 6:00pm	Morning Prayer; Psalm 2 "One king to serve" Autumn House Praise and Prayer
Mon	14	6:30pm 7:30pm	Breathe yrs 5-8 Deanery Synod
Tue	15	10:00am 12:30pm 1:00pm 7:00pm	Coffee before midweek service; service at 10:30 Seekers Club Stone ministers Fraternal Youth Club yrs 9-13
Wed	16	9:25am 6:00pm	Christ Church First School assembly KingZone yrs 2-4
Thu	17	1:20pm 7:00pm	Christ Church Academy assembly Wedding rehearsal

Fri	18		
Sat	19	12:00pm	Marriage of Matthew Parrott and Rebekah Fuller
Sun	20	9:15am 6:00pm	Communion; Psalm 3 “Deep trouble” Praise and Prayer
Mon	21	6:30pm	Breathe yrs 5-8
Tue	22	10:00am 12:30pm 6:00pm 7:00pm	Coffee before midweek service; service at 10:30 Seekers Club Christ Church Academy Governors’ meeting Youth Club yrs 9-13
Wed	23	9:25am 6:00pm 7:30pm	Christ Church First School assembly KingZone yrs 2-4 PCC meeting
Thu	24	1:20pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	25		
Sat	26	5:30pm	United Benefice Harvest Supper, Bring and Share
Sun	27	9:15am 6:00pm	Harvest; Psalm 4 “Better than a harvest” Christianity Explored 1
Mon	28	6:30pm	Breathe yrs 5-8
Tue	29	10:00am 12:30pm 6:00pm 7:00pm	Coffee before midweek service; service at 10:30 Seekers Club Christ Church First School Governors’ meeting Youth Club yrs 9-13
Wed	30	9:25am 6:00pm	Christ Church First School assembly KingZone yrs 2-4

Fairtrade goods will be on sale after the service on September 27th

If my people.....

A memorable poem by Rudyard Kipling begins: *'If you can keep your head when all about you, are losing theirs and blaming it on you'*. It was written in the form of paternal advice to the poet's son, John and was published in 1910. It encourages "a stiff upper lip" self-discipline. Soon after publication John was killed at the Battle of Loos in 1915. Many recognize the poem today. The second stanza reads: *'If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster and treat those two impostors just the same,'* and is written on the wall of the players' entrance to the Wimbledon Centre Court at The All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club.

In the Holy Bible there is a significant line which starts with the word *'If.'* It is one of the great texts of the Bible, that has continuing relevance to the people of God: *'If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land'* (2 Chronicles 7v14). This is not a call to having a stiff upper lip, but to re-orientate our lives in line with God's will.

The instructions continue to be relevant to today's church. God's people are special to Him and chosen to bear His image in the world *i.e.* reflect His character of being righteous, just and merciful. If we number ourselves amongst Christ's people then we must put a stop to our sins, turn away from living lives of proud self-centeredness, pray to the Lord and submit our desires to His word as we seek to do His will. Then, He will grant a heaven-sent revival.

The words of promised restoration remind us that problems in our church and nation can't be solved by human means. We need divine intervention to restore the church and our nation. Jesus said, *'Apart from me you can do nothing'* (John 15v50). Our prayer life is a barometer of our spiritual health, as it shows whether we truly depend on Jesus or live independently from him. During September we have an opportunity to be part of a prayer initiative in preparation for the autumn term. Will you be part of this? I hope so!

Paul Kingman



A New Bishop for the Diocese of Lichfield

When a much loved vicar leaves a parish there will always be a feeling of emptiness mixed with sadness in the immediate aftermath. But there will also be the lingering sense of thanksgiving for a much valued ministry, and for the warm farewells which brought everyone together in celebration and appreciation.

I am sure such feelings are prevalent across our large and diverse Diocese as we adjust to the reality of Bishop Jonathan's retirement and reflect on the memorable opportunities we have had to come together in a spirit of thanksgiving, most especially as we celebrated the 'Goodness of God' in West Bromwich on September 5th.

Inevitably the question in many minds will be 'when will we have a new Bishop?' accompanied by an interest in the process by which a new Bishop will be appointed. Although the answer to the question about 'when' will frustrate some - for a new Bishop will not be joining us, at best, until well into next year - be reassured that the process is already well under way.

Indeed many who are reading this will have been directly involved in the process through your participation in the widespread consultation which took place throughout the Deaneries during the summer. Your input has significantly shaped a key document entitled 'A new Bishop for the Diocese of Lichfield' which in many ways is similar to the 'parish profile' drawn up when parishes are seeking a new Vicar. It presents an informative picture of our Diocese, not being afraid to celebrate some of our most distinctive joys and treasures or to set out some of our greatest challenges. It concludes with a section setting out the qualities we think are most important in the person we seek as our new Bishop, qualities almost entirely drawn from statements made by those attending the Deanery consultations.

Another significant part of the process has been the election of six members of the Diocesan Vacancy in See Committee, to serve the Diocese on the Crown Nominations Commission, the body which will oversee the appointment process from here on, including the interviewing of the shortlisted candidates early in the New Year. Those who have been elected are a mix of ordained and lay and represent something of the diverse church traditions and contexts which make up our Diocese. Their names are on the Diocesan website. *(continued on page 7)*

Questions for further study of Psalms 1-12

Psalm 1 (Sun 6th September)

1. What does the word 'blessed' mean? Consider its use in Matthew 5v1-11.
2. What does the Bible mean by the following: (a) wicked; (b) sinners; (c) mockers?
3. What value does the Law of the LORD have for the believer? What specific things are mentioned in Psalm 119v1-24?
4. How do the characters of the righteous (v1-3) and the unrighteous (v4-6) differ? What is their final outcome and why?
5. In what do you delight? Whose company are you most at ease with?

Psalm 2 (Sun 13th September).

1. How does the writer respond to the plans of the wicked?
2. Who is their evil activity directed against? Compare with Acts 4v24-28.
3. What is the Lord's final purpose for 'his anointed'? How should people respond? Why?
4. What is the significance of the phrase '*kiss the son*' (v12)? How can this be applied to today?

Psalm 3 (Sun 20th September).

Investigate the probable background to this Psalm (and the next) by reading 2 Samuel 15-17. Note that 'selah' is possibly a musical term.

1. What is the situation that David is facing (v1-2)?
2. How does David react (v3-4)?
3. What results from David's trust in the Lord (v5-8)? See 2 Sam 17v1-4,14.
4. In what ways can this be a helpful model for our own lives?

Psalm 4 (Sun 27th September).

1. What is the reason for David's prayer? What is the basis for his confidence that God will respond (v1)?
2. What principle enables David to not crumble under pressure (v2-3)?
3. What does this short saying teach about anger and how to handle it (v4)?
4. What does v4-5 instruct us to guard against and also to nurture? What has the Psalmist discovered about the Lord (v6-8)? Have you?

The Queen becomes the longest reigning monarch in British history (9 September 2015)

A Collect for use after the Collect of the Day at BCP services

Almighty God, who hast set our gracious sovereign Queen Elizabeth upon the throne of this realm, and given her to surpass all others in the years of her reign: Receive our heartfelt thanks for her service to her people, confirm and encourage her in the continuance of the same, and keep her in thy heavenly wisdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who took the form of a servant for our sake, and reigneth now in glory with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

Amen.

A modern-language prayer drawing on Philippians 2

*Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ exchanged the glory of a heavenly throne for the form of a servant,
we thank you that you have given Elizabeth our Queen a heart to serve her people,
and have kept her devoted in this service beyond all who were before her:
encourage us by her example to serve one another, and to seek the common good,
until you call us all to reign with Christ in your eternal kingdom.*

Amen.

A new Bishop *(cont)*

The appointment process has much in common with the sort of methods used to appoint senior leaders in other walks of life but it also has significant differences, most notably in the encouragement to all of us to *pray* throughout the process.

A man of prayer has left us. Let us show that part of his legacy is a Diocese committed to and united in prayer as we seek God's will for this appointment.

+Clive Wulfrun

A fellowship community

A friend returning from a walking holiday in Scotland declared that, most of all, he enjoyed the solitude and wide open space where he could be alone. I guess that all of us have times when being temporarily alone is a pleasure but the passion people have for even ethereal friendships on Facebook and the like suggests that we certainly are not meant to be alone and as Christians we definitely have a God who created us to seek both his company and that of others. Jesus shared his ministry with his disciples and the crowds that followed him. Returning from Keswick it makes a real impression to have joined in worship, prayer and fellowship with up to 3000 others.

In Malachi 3v10 the Lord commends his people to 'Test me, and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it'. This in response to the people's joint generosity and obedience in filling His storehouse. This is an invitation to us to work together, in fellowship, more effectively than on our own and where this happens the blessings will increase exponentially.

This is dramatically seen in operation in Joshua's mission to settle the people in the promised land. Jericho's walls fell and the city was defeated as the group worked together to follow God's instructions but, when one named Achan took gold and silver for himself and hid it away amongst his own household, it led to defeat for Joshua' expeditionary force to Ai because the corporate endeavour had been broken.

It is clear that God will bless individuals, but will bless corporate responses a hundredfold because the 'agreement' amongst the group is so much more effective. That is perhaps why the forces of evil seek to break up 'agreement' and cause disharmony, rivalry and division between families, congregations and nations. It's no wonder the world is becoming more individualistic, more self centred and obsessed. It's all too easy to settle for survival, to get by, do the best we can and yet our Lord Jesus didn't sacrifice his life for us to survive, he died for us to succeed. Maybe we stand a better chance to succeed when we elevate the 'corporate' as part of our service to God - praying, learning, singing, praising and witnessing together in greater and greater numbers in church, in house groups and in the community. Whatever we do as individuals will be megafold increased when we do it as a body, the body of Christ.

Rob

Ride and Stride 12th September 2015

How about cycling or walking to visit as many Staffordshire churches (list provided) as you can between the hours of 10am and 6pm?.

Go as an individual or in a group.. Several congregation members have taken part in the past and have raised money for Staffordshire Historic Churches Trust

Note-half your sponsor money comes back to our own church. Dorothy Wilson has more information Tel : 812078

Our DNA

Not long ago I showed a photograph of my son, Andrew, and his son, Harry, to a friend and received the comment - "How like each other they are, and how like you too"

That got me thinking about our family likenesses.

When he was about four I showed Harry a photograph of himself (in the foreground) and me (in the background). "Who's that?" I said pointing to myself and he replied - "It's my dad" How alike my son and I must be!

Around the same I showed Hugh - my daughter Jane's son - a photograph of my mother (his great grandmother) and asked the same question. "Who's that, Hugh?" His reply - "That's my mummy" How alike Jane and her grandmother are.

My mother's side of my family seems to have 'strong' DNA!

Now I wonder, how like Jesus are you and I? Do we look like him to other people? We sure should if we have his DNA within us!

2 Cor 3:18 says - We reflect the Lord's glory and are being transformed into his likeness with ever increasing glory.

Dave Rowlands

An Appeal from Traidcraft

Traidcraft, the fair trade company which supplies our goods, have recently published their accounts; showing a trading loss for the 4th consecutive year. They decided to publish an editorial in the church press to appeal for urgent help from the church and the wider community.

The points made in the editorial were:

- 1 The Fairtrade battle is not won. Fairtrade products are readily available in the supermarkets but trade injustice is as rife as in 1979, when the company started.
- 2 Traidcraft and Fairtrade are not the same. Traidcraft is an independent trading company with a linked development charity (Traidcraft Exchange).
- 3 Total Fairtrade sales have grown but Traidcraft sales have declined. The company does not benefit from supermarket sales.
- 4 The most vulnerable farmers and artisans which Traidcraft trades with and supports could not cope with the demands or scale of big business.
- 5 Traidcraft Exchange runs projects to develop people's potential to trade their way out of poverty in their own countries.
- 6 Traidcraft pioneers new products into the fairtrade area (e.g. palm oil, rubber). They also lobby big business and government for changes to the way trade works to benefit the poor.

Remember the Fair Necessities Appeal to help the world's poorest farmers? The national appeal raised £615,000, more than double the original target. As mentioned in the May magazine the Benefice sent £815 towards this appeal. Some of this money will help tea farmers in Bangladesh.

If Traidcraft sales continue to decline, projects such as the above will have to be scaled down and other vital elements of their work (6) will be affected.

The Traidcraft stall is on the 4th Sunday of the month. (This month 28th – Harvest Sunday).

The Autumn catalogue is out now – ready for you to browse and place an order!

Traidcraft needs your continued support!

Sheila

Sheona at Capernwray Bible College- September 2015

Last Christmas we asked that you pray for Sheona's Bible College fees at Capernwray Hall (UK). She needed £7,500. To date £6,000 has come in and we are so delighted. Thanks for your prayers and also to those who generously and amazingly gave! Sheona has just finished her Croatian school leaving exams and she will apply to universities in UK and Germany for after Bible College. Already Capernwray have welcomed her to meet the other students in on-line „chats“ and prepare for her experience. Please continue to pray for her and if you would like to receive updates – please ask.

We are quite proud of our children and more and more they have been the mainstays in the worship groups of the Dubrava and Dugo Selo churches (Zagreb).

The Zagreb Churches - Dubrava

We celebrated its 10th anniversary May 17th. It is quite amazing. As the preacher said, we are now entering puberty! We have seen growth and just this May another elder, Daniel, was appointed. However, the financial crisis is hitting us hard... IMPORT – EXPORT – During the month of March we lost 4 families and one key young man. Two families moved to Germany to get jobs, whilst another went to Ireland. A Chilean family went to Dubrovnik - Francesko having just been baptised - along with young Ivan, our bass guitarist. Pray for us, that we seek more lost, as God's Kingdom elsewhere is blessed. However, it is hard and some members can become downcast, thinking the victory is being lost as numbers are challenged. On a positive note, Benjamin's singing teacher attended the meeting (to hear him sing) and also the German family we have recently befriended.

The Zagreb Churches - Dugo Sela

Here as well we have had our ups and downs. On the positive front we have a great opening door with Emanuel's new project, „Party in the Park“. We are now developing excellent relationships in the town as people (officials also) are seeing that we are normal people, expressing love for them. The Brazilian churches from England donated money so we could buy table football, ping-pong, tents and games – we already had a trampoline – so we could go to the main park and „make friends“ with the town folk, especially families. *(Continued on page 15)*

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BITTERS.

Christ Church 10 years ago

Mission to the Heart- 19-22 September 2005

We are fortunate to live at the centre of the canal system in the Heart of England. The Boaters' Christian Fellowship *was* on a mission journey through Staffordshire in September 2005 and *stayed* in Stone for two days.

There *were* several open events to which you *were* warmly welcome. We *were* encouraged to think and pray about who to bring with you. All these events *were* designed to welcome you and your friends, relatives and neighbours:

Sponsored Cycle Ride 2005

The Historic Churches sponsored Cycle Ride was held on September 10th in 2005

Biblical Maths

It's not that we think your brains don't get enough exercise . . . but see how you get on with these sums. They might test your knowledge of the Bible as well!

- 1) Tribes of Israel - Commandments =
- 2) (Books in the Bible ÷ Days of Creation) - Seals in Revelation =
- 3) Psalms ÷ (Days in the Wilderness + Plagues on Pharaoh) =
- 4) (Books in Old Testament - Books in New Testament) ÷ Number of Gospels =
- 5) Apostles - (Days of Rain ÷ Books in Pentateuch) =
- 6) If you add up all of your answers the total should equal the number of chapters in Romans!

Thomas Nash wrote about himself and his wife Clare, as they started work in our parish. He was our first youth worker.

The 19th World DIAKONIA Assembly was held in Durham, and Ann Butler wrote about it in the September 2005 magazine. The conference was attended by Deacons and Deaconesses from 35 countries, from Fiji to Finland, from the Netherlands to New Zealand, and from Scotland to South Africa.

Radio - Emanoel has experience in Brazil and so he wanted to start evangelistic broadcasts in Dugo Selo. Incredibly he has found funds for 6 months' broadcasts and has started. „Radio Martin“, the local station, has some 130,000 listeners.

On the down side, two of our main families decided to leave the church, after having caused all sorts of problems and taking another family with them. Our interpretation is Philippians 1v15-18. However, this disappoints us far more than „losing“ five families from the Dubrava church. We ARE in a spiritual battle, and there ARE setbacks. Our prayer for Dugo Selo is that we can really push during the Autumn, regain our strength and press on. In Dubrava, we as well need to accept the reality that sheer economics will constantly drain our church, even as we reach out. There are many LOST in Zagreb. We can never complain of having too few fish to catch.

Evangelism in Dugo Sela

In February Emanoel and I were invited to participate in a conference in Croatia. One of the speakers was pastor Natanael Spičak. As well as pastoring a newish church, he is responsible to deliver evangelistic literature to „Every Home“ in Croatia. Emanoel and I looked at each other as we heard his passion and we agreed to invite him and his team to „evangelise Dugo Selo“ with us. One wonderful sunny May weekend, 15 of his church (many teenagers!) came and we delivered Gospel tracts to every home in Dugo Selo! We also invited folk to our services, explaining that evangelical Christians are not a sect, but actually quite numerous and respected in the world! On the Sunday afternoon, before the evening service, we sang songs in the park and witnessed. Nobody became Christians. Nobody new even came to church, but we were so encouraged as we met and challenged local people. We plan the same again next year.

Facing the Task Unfinished

I don't know how your emotions have been, whilst reading this news. This is life. Our situation is also fairly typical of many churches throughout the Balkans. We want to evangelise, we are even evangelising, however numbers are few and even the growth we do see can be so easily dissipated away by the „brain drain“. We in ECM really want to help evangelise and encourage this needy area.

Pray for us, that we stay faithful to the heavenly vision

Stephen and Tabita

MAF Day of Prayer Oct 18th

A hope and a future

“For I know the plans I have for you” declares the Lord, “plan to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future”.

Jeremiah 29:11

Through our planes, partners and pilots, Mission Aviation Fellowship seeks to bring God’s love to some of the world’s most inaccessible areas. This year’s Day of Prayer will focus on how we’re bringing hope to thousands of remote and impoverished communities by providing practical help, physical healing and the life-giving words of the gospel.

Hope that provides those struggling to survive day after day with a future - now and eternally.

We look forward to praising God for answering our prayers, as well as committing our current requests to Him.

We’d love you to join us in prayer on 18th October 2015.

ROADS FOR PRAYER

6th September

Navigation Loop
Rangeley View
Barnton Edge
Anderton Way/View

20th September

Cressey Close
Joules Drive
Cauldon Way
Harecastle Bank

13th September

Bentley Close
Rendel Close
Brindley Close
Rudyard Close

27th September

Saltersford Rise
Rolt Close
Millenium Way
Cameron Wharf



REGISTERS AND ROTAS

WEDDING

20th June Kieran McKnight and Ashley Eastwood

BAPTISM

12th July Lily-Jade Margaret Coat

FUNERALS

25th June James Edward Weaver Age 84

31st July Barbara Bolton Age 66

SIDESPERSIONS ROTA

AM

6 th September	M. Hillman D. Shemilt	D. Garrington-Miller K. Woodward
13 th September	G. Latos C. Leithead	J. Abrahams C. Wilding
20 th September	D. Pickles P. Roberts	D. Wilson K. Rein
27 th September	P. Kelly D. Davies	R. Brandon C. Reeve



FLOWER ROTA

6 th September	Flower Guild
13 th September	Mrs E. Cook
20 th September	Mrs S. Hallam
27 th September	Harvest



Groups and Activities

Deanery Synod Reps	Helen Bowes, Helen Kennedy	
P.C.C. Members	Kate Latham, Irene Gassor, Phil Tunstall Shelagh Sanders, Pete Mason, George Holden Angela Burton, Marylyn Hillman, Pam Shields Kevin Reynolds, Estella Woodhead, Rob Shields	
Secretary	Shelagh Sanders	
Treasurer	Kevin Reynolds	850135
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
Missions Secretary	Cecilia Wilding.....	817987
Prayer Group	Jeanette Rowlands.....	816713
Parents & Toddlers (Mon 9.30 – 11.15am)	Sandra Morray.....	286093
3rd Stone Brownies (Mon 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 **Breathe** (years 5-8) Monday 6:30 pm

Youth Club (years 9-13) Tuesday 7:00 pm **Kingzone** (years 2-4) Wednesday 6:00 pm

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 on the Internet

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