

Christ Church and People

Parish Magazine of
Christ Church Stone

40p



March 2010

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	Tim Vasby-Burnie, 1 Navigation Loop Email tim@vasbyburnie.net	814244
Assistant Minister For Youth	Adam Rushton, 26 Victoria Street	813654
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-ordinators	Peter Mason Jeff Challinor	815854 819665
Wardens	Phil Tunstall David Rowlands	817028 816713
Deputy Wardens	Andy Stone, 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
Christ Church C.E.(Aided) Middle School, 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 April magazine to us by 15th March.

Cover Story:-
New flats south of church

Subscriptions

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

March 2010

Mon	1	7:00pm 7:30pm	Cornerstone Standing Committee
Tue	2	9:30am 10:00am 2:00pm 3:45pm 7:30pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before midweek service: service at 10:30am Christ Church First School - Weddings Lighthouse Club years 3-5 Christ Church Youth Club years 12-13
Wed	3	7:45pm	Tough Questions - Real Answers
Thu	4	1:20pm 7:00pm	Christ Church Middle School assembly The Rock Youth Group yrs 9-11
Fri	5	10:00am 6:30pm	Friday Fellowship Breathe yrs 6-8
Sat	6	8:30am 7:00pm	Prayer meeting followed by breakfast Phil and Arthur's evening
Sun	7	9:15am 6:00pm	Communion Luke 14:25-35 "Have you counted the cost?" Evening Prayer at Christ Church Matthew 18:15-35 "Don't stop forgiving"
Mon	8	7:00pm	Cornerstone
Tue	9	9:30am 10:00am 3:45pm 6:00pm 7:30pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before midweek service: service at 10:30am Lighthouse Club years 3-5 Christ Church Middle School governing body Christ Church Youth Club years 12-13
Wed	10	All day	Tim Hanson at Christ Church - A passion for life
Thu	11	All day 1:20pm 7:00pm	Tim Hanson at Christ Church - A passion for life Christ Church Middle School assembly The Rock Youth Group yrs 9-11
Fri	12	10:00am 6:30pm	Friday Fellowship Breathe yrs 6-8
Sat	13		Time Travellers Holiday Club
Sun	14	9:15am 6:00pm	Mothering Sunday: Morning Prayer Luke 15:1-10 "What brings joy to God?" Communion at Christ Church Henreus 8:1-13 "Where to find perfect forgiveness"

Mon	15	7:00pm	Cornerstone
Tue	16	9:30am 10:00am 3:45pm 7:30pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before midweek service: service at 10:30am Lighthouse Club years 3-5 Christ Church Youth Club years 12-13
Wed	17		
Thu	18	1:20pm 7:00pm 7:00pm	Christ Church Middle School assembly The Rock Youth Group yrs 9-11 Concert in Church
Fri	19	10:00am 6:30pm	Friday Fellowship Breathe yrs 6-8
Sat	20		
Sun	21	10:30am 6:00pm	Communion-United benefice service with Rico Tice. A passion for life. Luke 15:11-32 "Where are you?" Britannia Stadium. Rico Tice and a passion for life.
Mon	22	10:30am 7:00pm	Evangelistic Preaching Conference - Castle Church Hall, Stafford Cornerstone
Tue	23	9:30am 10:00am 3:45pm 7:30pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before midweek service: service at 10:30am Lighthouse Club years 3-5 Christ Church Youth Club years 12-13
Wed	24		
Thu	25	1:20pm 7:00pm	Christ Church Middle School assembly The Rock Youth Group yrs 9-11
Fri	26	10:00am 6:30pm	Friday Fellowship Breathe yrs 6-8
Sat	27		
Sun	28	9:15am 6:00pm	Palm Sunday. Family service Luke 20:9-19 "What will you do with the stone?" Communion Col 3:1-17 "Bury your differences"
Mon	29	7:00pm	Cornerstone
Tue	30	9:30am 10:00am 3:45pm 7:30pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before midweek service: service at 10:30am Lighthouse Club years 3-5 Christ Church Youth Club years 12-13
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A Passion for Life

It takes a passionate love to see things through to the bitter end. This is the nature of Jesus Christ's love for the world. A love that was prepared to face ridicule, hostility, rejection, threats, torture and execution. He put aside self-interest in order to complete his mission – a plan of rescue so that we can be reconciled to God. But it cost his life.

The Son should have received people's adoration and their loyal obedience, but instead he was subjected to cruel torture and a painful death on a Roman cross. Crucifixion involved stretching out the prisoner's arms out wide and nailing through the wrists and feet. It was intensely painful; it made breathing extremely difficult; it put the heart under enormous strain in order to try and deliver oxygen to the body; it led to death within hours. The passionate nature of Jesus' love is staggering when you consider who he is – the Son of God hung and suffered on a cross for the benefit of those who put him to death.

The horror of what he faced led to his fervent prayer on the Mount of Olives as he grappled with the overwhelming dread of what he was about to face: *'and being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground'* (Luke 22v44). His passion for the world was coupled with his perfect obedience to the Father: *'During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission'* (Hebrews 5v7). He did not draw back, but saw things through to the bitter end. Jesus' sacrificial death made reconciliation to the Father possible. This is his invitation and gift to all who believe.

During this month we hold *'A Passion For Life.'* There are several opportunities to explore Jesus' life and teachings, to gain a deeper understanding of the Father's love made known through the death of Jesus Christ. I hope that you will be able to take part and benefit from these events: either to begin or to grow deeper in faith and trust.

Paul Kingman



Jesus is the Life

Most of you have probably heard the news by now: I have been appointed Vicar of St Bartholomew, Wednesbury. The date of my Licensing (when I officially start) is June 16th, so you are all invited to the service at 7.30pm. It would be great to have you there!

It is fairly normal for people to be unsure what a Vicar really does. That's fine. I'll be working it out for the rest of my life! It is also fairly normal for people to misunderstand what a Vicar does – maybe the role is of helping people through hard times, or perhaps it's about nurturing a spiritual dimension of life. These things have their place, but how about this as a mission statement: my aim is that people enjoy the Life that is in Jesus Christ.

Jesus called himself 'The Life'. What does this mean?

First, it means that Jesus is the source of all life. That breath you're taking right now? Jesus gave it to you.

Second, Jesus came to bring eternal life. For most people, this means that followers of Christ will live forever after death. This is gloriously true, but we're still not at the heart of what it means that Jesus is The Life.

Jesus very helpfully explains what eternal life is *really* about. **“Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.” (John 17:3)** True Life is about *knowing* God the Father and God the Son, in the power of God the Holy Spirit.

C. S. Lewis described two types of knowledge: contemplation and enjoyment. When you contemplate something you are outside of it, you are looking at it from a spectator's point of view. But when you're enjoying something you are inside it, you're inhabiting it, you're personally acquainted, you're involved in it. Christianity isn't the offer to contemplate God, to consider him and know things about him. It is the offer to enjoy God. Jesus invites us into the Life that existed before the creation of the world, the Life that is the perfect love flowing between Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

This month is our *Passion for Life* mission. Come along, or invite others, so that we might know more of Jesus' passion for our life – that our life might be caught up in his True Life. If you are enjoying God this will be the mission statement for your life as well.

Leaving Home

One of my favourite paintings is called “The Last of England” by the Pre-Raphaelite artist Ford Madox Brown. It’s in the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, and it depicts a couple on a windswept cross-Channel ship, with the white cliffs of Dover on the right, and an expression of deep sadness on their faces as they leave to begin a new life in a new country. Only when you look closely do you notice the details: the woman is holding the tiny hand of a baby hidden beneath her grey coat, and a row of cabbages hang from the ship’s side.

As I write this I feel something of the couple’s emotions. I too am leaving home for another country. In mid-June my wife and I are moving to southern Scotland, after five years as Bishop of Stafford and just under 37 years in the full-time ministry of the Church of England. But then life is full of experiences of leaving home, as most of you who read this will know. To be born is to leave the warm security of your mother’s womb; to leave school means stepping out of the familiar into the unknown; to go into hospital means embarking on a journey whose outcome you can’t entirely predict. And to lose someone you love means leaving home, not always literally, but spiritually; for “home” means people as much as places, and the loss of someone very close to you changes that forever.

The Bible has some profound wisdom to help us here. First, there is no way back. At the start of the human journey, Adam and Eve had to leave home and step into the lonely world east of Eden. There was no way back. Abraham never went back to Ur, nor Jacob and Joseph to Israel; and the only place that Jesus could work no miracles was when he tried going back home to Nazareth. Of course you can return to where you once lived; but it won’t be home any more. You can (and usually do) return home from a spell in hospital; but you won’t go back - you can only go forward, because your spell away will have changed both you and your home as well. Nostalgia is good news for no one. Better to leave home and start anew, however fearful the prospect, than risk becoming the skeleton at the feast.

(continued on next page)

Secondly, we must learn to travel light. That's desperately hard in a consumer society which prizes stuff, and acquisitiveness, before all else. Recently I read a review of a new book called "Delete: the Virtue of Forgetting in the Digital Age." The author makes the point that the internet has made available a staggering, unimaginable quantity of information, infinitely more than anyone could use. But it has also made it much harder to delete things. The result? We keep kidding ourselves that we can go on through life simply adding more and more (things, experiences, memories, qualifications) to our spiritual luggage, without ever having to let anything go. Yet Jesus told his disciples to leave home and step out in faith with no spare bag or tunic (Matt.10:10). Leaving home obliges you to ask: what matters most in my life? What can I - must I - let go of? What illusions about myself, what status symbols, what dark resentments, what accumulated clutter, need releasing if I am to travel on in faith?

Lastly, and however hard it is to believe, the best is always yet to come. The next bishop, the next vicar, the next occupant of the house you called "home", will probably do better than you; and you should rejoice if they do, for what you left behind may have helped to make that happen. And for you or me, leaving home and travelling on with more grey hairs and an aching mix of sadness and deep gratitude, what lies ahead? We don't know, for the future is not in our control. But God is a nomad too, and walks with us into the unknown. The supreme symbol of leaving home in Scripture is not the closed gate of Eden but the Cross of Good Friday; for there, and in our place, Jesus let go the most precious thing of all - his life - in order to receive it back from the Father on Easter morning in a form even death could not destroy. That's why, as C.S.Lewis famously said, Christians never say goodbye - only "until we meet again", in this world or the next. And that's why, for those willing to take the risk of leaving home, the best is always yet to be.

Gordon Mursell (Bishop of Stafford)

Christ Church, Stone, invite you to a
HOLIDAY CLUB FAMILY SPECIAL

TIME - TRAVELLERS

Saturday 13th March, 10 am - 4 pm

Christ Church Centre

For children in Reception - Year 6 and their families

More info/booking form: 01785 811990 or 812669

Games: Songs: Craft: Bible teaching: Drama; Food and lots of FUN!

An Evening with Phil and Arthur

Saturday 6th March at 7pm in the Centre

Something for Everyone

Sale of plants and pots of spring bulbs

Guessing games to play 50p a go, great prizes

Take part in a lighthearted team quiz

Refreshments

Tickets £1 from Phil or Arthur

Proceeds to church general fund

Haiti Collections and Cake Sale

A collection in the three churches of our benefice raised £497.01, and a Cake Sale organised by Pathfinders raised £70. This money has now been sent to support relief work in Haiti. Thanks to everybody who contributed.

Sermon series in March

Mornings at Christ Church & Oulton: the series in Luke's gospel looks at how Jesus questions us! Jesus asks the important questions and gets us to think about how we are to realign our lives with his good and perfect will.

Moddershall & evenings: a series on forgiveness (from a variety of texts). This is an important theme that is to be at the heart of Christian life and relationships.

A day at Shallowford House:

Led by the Rev. Preb. Roger Vaughan

CARE AND PRAYER DAY

Wednesday 14th April; 10.00a.m. – 3.30p.m.

Cost £25.00 (includes lunch and tea/coffee)

To book please phone the John Young Foundation, 01785 258428

Thank You from Eva

I would like to thank everyone for the cards, for attending the party and especially for the cake on the occasion of my 90th birthday. I had a lovely day and thanks to you I raised £250 for the "Heroes" fund.

Eva McNulty

Gideons

A year ago we didn't really know anything about the Gideons more than that they left bibles in hotel bedrooms. Some friends invited us to a meeting with the promise of a good buffet and we went along.

It really was surprising to learn at the meeting the extent and range of their activity. They have branches in 190 countries worldwide and last year provided over 70 million copies of the bible or New Testament. This is quite staggering but in their 100 year history over 1 ½ billion copies of the bible have been given to individuals and organisations such as hospitals, schools, hotels and other such groups. The amazing thing is that far from reducing demand, over half this total provision has happened in the last 12 years. This reflects not only a steady provision in Europe and N. America but a very rapid increase in provision of the bibles in Asia, Africa and S. America.

Locally, the Stafford branch serves a large area of central and south Staffordshire. There is a monthly meeting for members who distribute bibles to hotels, hospitals and surgeries, schools, prisons, services and interested individuals. The money for the purchase of bibles is provided by member donations and a 'friends' group who support the work but aren't involved in the administration. There is a regular magazine full of articles relating personal accounts of how a Gideon bible has brought people to the faith and about various campaigns in Britain (next year to Bristol) and around the world. All Gideon members are encouraged to witness, not only by presenting bibles to organisations, but also by giving copies of the bible to individuals through personal witness.

The Gideons recognise that they can only operate in partnership with churches to build strong relationships and support. It is always a privilege to be invited to report to churches, who provide our membership, our funding and, most importantly, our prayer support needed to further the work.

If you would like to support the Gideons work or find out more, please ask Rob and Angela Brandon. (01785814228)

The PCC met on Wednesday 20 January 2010 and the following matters were reported on, discussed and/or decided.

- In line with recent advice we will revert back to a shared communion chalice. The small individual cups that were introduced last year will be kept in storage in case the need arises to use them in the future.
- The church Christmas card and sale of tealight angels and lighthouses raised in excess of £400. All proceeds will be given to the Jigsaw Kids Ministry.
- Final details are being worked up for the concluding Passion For Life event that will take place on the evening of 21 March at the Britannia Stadium. We are one of 9 churches in the North Staffordshire area who are hosting this event. Rico Tice will be speaking on 'What is Success?' and there will be music and testimony.
- The electrical works and re-wiring in the church are now complete. We only await the final test certificate.
- We will be removing the small grassed area and broken fencing at the end of the church centre building that overlooks the Christchurch Way car park. This will be replaced with a hard surface to create an additional 3 car parking spaces on our land.
- The final bill for the works to create the new entrance has now been settled. This included some additional items such as the stainless steel handrails on the steps.
- Moving the crèche to the back corner of the church has allowed us to reinstate some pews in the area vacated by the crèche and the small chapel. We have gained 7 pews in this area which will help when we have large numbers attending, e.g. for the schools services

The next PCC meeting is on Monday 15 March 2010 at 7.30pm.

News from the Humphreys

Hello ...and a Great Big Happy New Year!

We have only just started school again after the winter break (2 weeks ago), although we had been back at Hebron for a while before that, for staff retreat, preparation and the Y11 mock exams. (The 11's had to return a week earlier than the other students.)

We are thankful for our health and strength and hope you too can thank God for the many 'easy to forget' blessing which actually are the foundations of life. This was brought home to me again just recently with the Haiti earthquake, and how things can change in a moment. We have a lot to be thankful for haven't we?! Ben was able to come out again for Christmas which was wonderful. He returned several weeks ago and is hopefully busy working at Uni.. Jonny also has just completed his mock GCSE exams and is in preparation for the real thing. His First exam is in March [ART]. Whilst Steff' will have completed his mock exams by the time you receive this. It's that time of life I guess, exams –exams! [Incidentally, all our boys seem to be more interested in football than studies. We would appreciate prayer for them that they would find some self motivation.]

This term Owen will also be teaching Std 8 English due to staff shortages, this is something brand new for him; he is busy reading relevant books and is giving himself a 'crash course'. He is also doing an on-line Professional Development course, over the next few months, for IGCSE Mathematics teachers. As well as these new challenges he will continue the roles he had last semester (Middle School Coordinator, Y10 Core Mathematics and supporting individuals in our Department of Enhanced Learning DEL). Staff shortages have had a massive impact on our school as we are unable to request a supply teacher from the local education authority. Please point any retired/ unemployed or disillusioned teachers in our direction...thanks!

Tracy's busiest term has now begun with coursework deadlines for A levels, The IGCSE Exam and the AS exam. This year we have more exam students than ever and 2 out of the 3 Art teachers are unqualified, and it is their first time teaching. Its moments like this we can see [by faith], God doing more than we ask or think in answer to prayer.

We value, appreciate and feel empowered knowing we are part of Gods Praying family. We can achieve nothing on our own. Thanks so much for your faithfulness in remembering us as a family, Hebron and His growing kingdom in Asia.

Why not check out our Hebron website www.hebronooty.org 2010 might be the year you taste real Indian curry! It's great!!

Bye for now, Tracy Owen and boys XX

Concert at Christ Church

On Thursday 18th March at 7pm, Christ Church welcomes two of the county's outstanding youth ensembles to perform a joint concert. This promises to be an exciting evening of musical entertainment, and the groups in question could hardly be more different.

Stafford Grammar School's Concert Band was established about 10 years ago, but in recent times the Band has gone from strength to strength. In the last twelve months they have performed in theatres, open air venues including Stafford Market Square and local churches as well as their regular School concerts. The Band will be undertaking a tour of France in the summer, including a concert at Disneyland Paris.

The Band's wide repertoire includes original wind band compositions as well as medleys of songs from the shows, arrangements of pop songs, jazz and popular classics.

The Band's Musical Director, Mr Gavin R Lamplough, is also the Grammar School's Director of Music. Amongst the members of the Band are several student musicians who represent the School whilst playing for Staffordshire County Ensembles.

Staffordshire Youth Recorder and Renaissance Ensemble (SYRRE) is one of the many youth groups organised by Staffordshire Performing Arts. It consists of young people between the ages of 11 and 21 from the Cannock, Lichfield, Stafford and Stone areas.

The Ensemble has performed in a variety of venues including the Royal Albert Hall in London and Symphony Hall in Birmingham. In 1999 they won through to the final rounds of the National Festival of Music for Youth at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, London. In 2001 they took part in the National Association of Youth Orchestras Festival in the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, performing in the Great Hall of Edinburgh Castle and the Chapel Royal of Stirling Castle. They returned to Edinburgh in 2004 and played in the Palace of Holyrood House. In 2006 the ensemble performed at the County Showground for the visit of Her Majesty the Queen and HRH Prince Philip. Later that year they performed in the York Mystery Plays at York Minster.

As well as a varied repertoire of Early Music, authentically performed on period instruments, SYRRE also play arrangements of more modern pieces, often specially arranged for them.

Tickets for the concert are available from the Church Office or on the door, priced £5 (£3 concessions). All profits will be donated to Christ Church.

David Beauchamp

Take a break...

There are 30 books of the Bible in this paragraph. Can you find them? This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket, on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much, he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his john boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or a scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books this paragraph. During a recent fund raising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new record. The local paper, The Chronicle, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, "The books are all right here in plain view hidden from sight." Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also, keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad exodus; there really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph waiting to be found.

Tim V-B

(The first person to send an email to christchurch_mag@yahoo.co.uk listing the 30 books in the order in which they appear will receive an honourable mention in the next edition.)

FAIRTRADE

Christ Church was registered by the Fairtrade Foundation as a Fairtrade church in 2005; now one of nearly 6,000 in the UK. Traidcraft, the company which supplies our goods, is a founder member of the Fairtrade Foundation. As a Fairtrade church we undertake to:

- ❖ Use Fairtrade tea and coffee after services and for all meetings for which we have responsibility
- ❖ Move forward on using other Fairtrade products e.g. sugar, biscuits
- ❖ Promote Fairtrade during Fairtrade Fortnight (from February 22nd to March 7th this year) and during the year through events e.g. our monthly sales.

What is Fairtrade?

It aims to transform the lives of poor producers in the developing world by:

- Creating opportunities for poor producers
- Ensuring trading practices are fair – in payment and prices
- Ensuring children are not being exploited
- Ensuring there is no discrimination
- Ensuring safe working conditions

What is the Fairtrade Premium?

This is the amount paid in addition to the Fairtrade price for investment in social, environmental or economic development projects. How the premium is spent is decided democratically by producers within the farmers' organisation or workers on a plantation. It may be used on education, healthcare or farm improvements; to increase yield or improve processing facilities.

At the Chramraj tea estate in India, the school computer lab was funded by the Fairtrade premium. It started with 12 computers but the company owning the estate were so impressed with the results that they paid for 28 more computers. As pupil, Jennifer (whose parents work on the estate) says 'Our standard of education has improved. The computer training has improved our chances of going to college and getting a good job.' The Fairtrade premium has also been used to fund school buses for children who live further away.

(continued on next page)

FAIRTRADE *(continued)*

Last year the Anin Co-op in Palestine (producing olive oil) became Fairtrade certified. The farmers say one of the first things they will buy with the Fairtrade premium will be mobile storage containers to speed up the processing of the olives, improving the quality of the oil.

Traidcraft, our supplier is a trading company but it also runs a charity – Traidcraft Exchange. It helps to develop small businesses in the world's poorest countries and campaigns for fairer trade practices and policy in the UK and overseas. Ruth Parsons donates any profit made on our sales during the year to Traidcraft Exchange.

The theme of Fairtrade Fortnight this year is 'The Big Swap', focusing on the tea industry; over 20 million people in the developing world rely on the tea industry yet still only 20% of tea sold in the UK is Fairtrade. Some have swapped already – the Houses of Parliament have been using Fairtrade tea (and coffee) since 1997!

The Fairtrade market in the UK is continuing to grow rapidly – expenditure on Fairtrade goods has risen from £22 million in 1999 to £635 million in 2009. Some major companies made the 'big swap' or made plans to do so in 2009 e.g. Cadburys and Nestle to Fairtrade cocoa for Dairy Milk and Kit Kat respectively.

A prayer for Fairtrade Fortnight

Great Creator God

*who gave life to the world and everyone in it
create in me a heart of careful consumerism.
As I stand in a shop, as I prepare my meals,
help me to remember that what I buy and eat
comes from farmers, growers, workers and
labourers in fields and factories across the
world.*

*Help me to remember that someone's life and
well-being depends on the products I hold in
my hands, place into my shopping basket and
eat from my plate, that I may be thankful and
act with justice.*

Amen

Mothers Union



CMS and SAMS are integrating

Two historic mission agencies are becoming a single mission community in 2010

“It takes a whole world to know the whole Christ,” said Max Warren, former CMS general secretary. That sums up the vision that’s driving the integration of SAMS and CMS – deepening the cross-cultural connections that help us all discover a greater Jesus. Cut one part or another off from the rest of the body, those connections are lost. Joining together, those connections are enhanced. Together, we’re sure our new ‘whole’ will be far more than the sum of its parts – to the glory of God.

Looking to the future

In 2008, the SAMS General Council voted by a clear majority of 84 per cent in favour to integrate with CMS. CMS members – with an overwhelming 99 per cent in favour – agreed in early 2009.

On 1 February 2010, the Church Mission Society and the South American Mission Society became a single new joint entity known as CMS – a community of mission service that will benefit from the rich history of both societies’ work in Europe, Africa, Asia and Latin America. As we look to a rapidly changing future, this community will work to enable a new generation of God’s people to fulfil their calling in mission wherever they may be across those four continents.

Dr Cathy Ross looks at how we've come a long way from pith helmets in the jungle. Mission is always changing – God’s Spirit blows where it will and we need discernment to keep up with that movement.

(continued on next page)

Perhaps the most dramatic shift in the history of mission has occurred in our lifetime – in fact during the last 20 years or so. This is the shift of the ‘centre of gravity’ of Christianity from the West to the Majority World or the Global South. The growth of Christianity in Africa, for example, is staggering. In 1900 there were approximately 8.7 million Christians in Africa. By 2000 there were approximately 350 million.

Professor Lamin Sanneh, from Gambia, notes that the fastest growth in Africa was after colonialism, surmising that perhaps colonialism was an obstacle to the growth of Christianity.

The delayed impact of Bible translation also helped Christianity to spread as did – with Africans leading the way in the spread of the gospel. So we now find that Africa has the fastest growing church, Latin America is the largest Christian continent and the church is growing rapidly in parts of Asia, notably China. The church is stagnating or in decline in the West.

New approaches to mission

The church in the Majority World is generally theologically more conservative than the West, has a greater awareness of the supernatural and has a more holistic understanding of discipleship.

This has huge implications for mission: the churches in the Majority World may no longer wish to approach mission in the same way as Western mission engagement in the past. While they may still be happy to welcome mission partners from the West, it is usually for a specific task and timeframe.

They also feel a responsibility to re-evangelise the West and many go to Western countries with this aim. They may not be sent by a traditional mission agency but rather they may go as professionals, migrants or even refugees but always with the aim of reaching out in the name of Christ. We now see that mission really is from everywhere to everywhere.

Time for a rethink

All these issues (and more) have meant major changes for the theory and practice of mission. Westerners now find themselves as a minority in the Christian world and are having to learn how to listen with humility to the concerns of our sisters and brothers from the Majority World.

ROADS FOR PRAYER

7th March

The Avenue
Trent Road
Tunley Street
Trinity Driv
York Street

14th March

Airdale Grove
Airdale Road
Airdale Spinney
Cross Street
Lotus Court

**21st March**

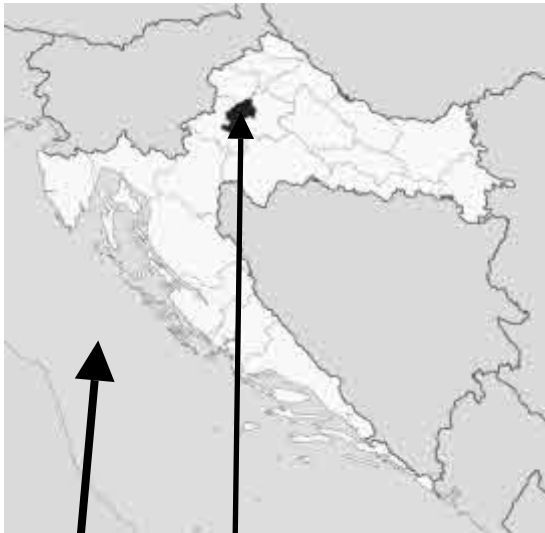
Nicholls Lane
Old Road
Old Road Close
Oulton Cross

28th March

Oulton Road
Oulton Mews
Princes Street
Queens Square

Visit of Stephen Bell

Stephen Bell was able to pay us a flying visit on the evening of Sunday February 7th, when h joined us for the evening service. Afterwards we shared a “Baked Potatoes” supper and Stephen talked about the work in Croatia where he is involved in church-planting. He told us about



Adriatic

Zagreb

setbacks in mission but also the great joy of new Christians including one man who became a Christian during the notices at the beginning of the service! We watched a slide show presentation about the Dubrava church and heard about their hopes for further church plants. We were encouraged by the faith and love for Jesus flourishing in Croatia.

FROM THE REGISTERS

FUNERALS

Stafford Crematorium

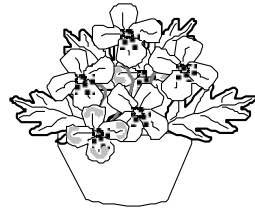
14 th January	Ethel Latham	Age 89
19 th January	James Scott Henderson	Age 61
27 th January	Martha Johanna Lotti	Age 80

SIDESPERSIONS ROTA

	AM		PM
7th Mar	A. West A. Lloyd	G. Holden J. Abrahams	D. Shemilt
14th Mar	D. Pickles D. Wilson	B. Hutchinson M. Hutchinson	P. Tunstall
21st Mar	J. Rowlands D. Davies	I. Gassor V. Ledward	
28th Mar	C. Wilding P. Hipkiss	K. Thompson T. MacFarlane	P. Tunstall

FLOWER ROTA

7th Mar	Lent
14th Mar	Mothering Sunday
21st Mar	Lent
28th Mar	Lent



EASTER FLOWERS

The Flower Guild would be most grateful for donations towards the purchase of flowers for Easter. Donations could be left at the Parish Office. If you wish to have a name entered into the Book of Remembrance please let me know before Sunday 28th March.

Thanks Marylyn

Christ Church on the Internet

Parish website	www.christchurchstone.org
Parish office email	christchurch.centre1@btinternet.com
Magazine contributions	christchurch_mag@yahoo.co.uk

Deanery Synod Reps	Mrs S Hallam, Mr D. Rowlands	
P.C.C. Members	Mr G. Holden, Mr K. Reynolds, Mrs J. Rowlands Mr A. Stone, Mrs E. Woodhead, Mrs D. Davies Mrs I. Gassor, Mrs E. Mason, Mr M. Thompson Mrs D. Wilson, Mrs J. Abrahams, Mrs K. Latham Mr P. Mason, Mr A. Rushton, Mr T. Woodhead	
Secretary	Jacqueline Abrahams.....	817020
Treasurer	Kevin Reynolds.....	851595
Envelopes, Gift Aid	Nesta Challinor	

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.com). 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).

Subscriptions

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