

Christ Church and People

40p

Parish Magazine of
Christ Church Stone



November 2008

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 21 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 Email	Christ Church Centre, Christ Church Way, Stone, Staffs ST15 8ZB christchurch.centre1@btinternet.com	811990
Deaconess (Retired)	Ann Butler	818160
Readers	David 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	Carole 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 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

Please get your contributions for the December magazine to us by 15th November

Cover Story:-
Granville
Square

November 2008

Sat	1	8:30am 9:00am	Prayer meeting Breakfast in the Centre
Sun	2	9:15am 6:00pm	Communion: John 14:5-31 "The Father is greater" Christianity Explored 4 in the Centre
Mon	3	9:00am 7:00pm	Prayers for schools and young people Cornerstone for teenagers
Tue	4	9:30am 10:00am 10:30am 12:30pm 7:30pm 8:00pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before service Midweek service Seekers Club at Christ Church Middle School Christ Church Youth Club Housegroup at 2 The Glen
Wed	5	7:30pm	Standing Committee
Thu	6	1:20pm	Christ Church Middle School assembly
Fri	7		
Sat	8		
Sun	9	11:00am 11:15am 4:00pm 6:00pm	Service of Remembrance in Granville Square Remembrance Day Civic Service in Christ Church John 15:9-17 "No greater love" Service for the Bereaved Christianity Explored 5 in the Centre
Mon	10	9:00am 7:00pm 7:45pm	Prayers for schools and young people Cornerstone for teenagers Coalport Drive home group
Tue	11	9:30am 10:00am 10:30am 12:30pm 7:30pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before service Midweek service Seekers Club at Christ Church Middle School Christ Church Youth Club
Wed	12		
Thu	13	1:20pm	Christ Church Middle School assembly
Fri	14		
Sat	15		

November 2008

Sun	16	9:15am 6:00pm	Communion: John 19:1-16 "The greater sin" Christianity 6 in the Centre
Mon	17	9:00am 7:00pm	Prayers for schools and young people Cornerstone for teenagers
Tue	18	9:30am 10:00am 10:30am 12:30pm 1:00pm 7:30pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before service Midweek service Seekers Club at Christ Church Middle School Fraternal meeting Christ Church Youth Club
Wed	19	10:00am 7:30pm	Men's meeting PCC meeting
Thu	20	1:20pm	Christ Church Middle School assembly
Fri	21		
Sat	22		
Sun	23	9:15am 10:15am 6:00pm	Family service: Jeremiah 1 "A young heart" Fair Trade stall in the Centre Christianity Explored 7 in the Centre
Mon	24	9:00am 7:00pm 7:45pm	Prayers for schools and young people Cornerstone for teenagers Coalport Drive home group
Tue	25	9:30am 10:00am 10:30am 12:30pm 7:30pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before service Midweek service Seekers Club at Christ Church Middle School Christ Church Youth Club
Wed	26		
Thu	27	1:20pm	Christ Church Middle School assembly
Fri	28		
Sat	29		
Sun	30	9:15am 6:00pm	Morning Prayer: Jeremiah 2:1-19 "A disloyal heart" Communion at Christ Church: Deuteronomy 18:18 "The Prophet"

Dividing lines

Contemporary films are often a form of escapism. But a recent release tackles the contentious topic of dividing lines - how we can wrongly judge others. 'The Boy in Striped Pyjamas' is based on John Boyne's best selling novel set in the time of the Holocaust. The Nazis dispensed with the idea that all humans have equal dignity and so treated the Jews as filth. The Bible, however, teaches that each is made in the image of God.

The novel was written from the viewpoint of a Bruno, a naïve 8-year old German boy. Bruno's father is promoted to Obersturmbannführer (equivalent to Lt-Col) in the SS. The family move from Berlin to Poland where Bruno's father Ralph is commandant of a death camp. Bruno can see the camp from his top floor window and assumes it is a farm. He later makes contact with a boy in striped pyjamas on the other side of the fence in the camp. They have the same birthday and their friendship grows. Curiosity as to what life is like on the other side leads to Bruno donning a set of striped pyjamas and entering, with disastrous consequences.

Jesus said: *"Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way as you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you"* (Mt 7v1-2). Jesus can't either be suggesting we abolish the courts of law (which would allow injustices to continue), or forbid criticism (turning a blind eye to dishonesty and hypocrisy). What Jesus teaches is not to judge others harshly. The words of a faultfinder are negative and destructive. They home in on another person's failings. Harsh critics attribute the worst of motives to the actions of others, oppose their plans and are unforgiving of their mistakes. They set themselves up as judges of others. But this is to take the role of God!

Jesus makes two points: (1) we are not the judge: only Christ can read a person's heart and assess their motives; (2) we are the judged: one day all of us will be in the dock and face Christ the Judge of all. When we recognise that Jesus is our Judge then we will be humble before him and generous in our judgment of others. It is this that is key to human relationships. If this truth is something that you have come to terms with then it will transform your relationship with God and with other people.

Paul Kingman.



I Obey, therefore I Understand

I have put you in danger. Every month, as you read my article, I have put your spiritual life into potential harm. Disaster may be ahead; it is entirely possible that, in reading this magazine, disaster has moved closer.

In the last three articles I have argued that we all have a “world view” - a set of assumptions, priorities and beliefs that affect every thing we think about and do. We all have need of continual reformation – so that our world view is centred on Jesus Christ and built on the foundation of the Scriptures. Our minds need changing. A mind that isn't continually being renewed is a stagnant pool of water: lifeless and bad-smelling!

But this isn't the danger I am writing about. The danger is of titillating our mind, giving it fresh information, increasing our knowledge, but never putting Jesus' teachings into practice. This is disastrous. The Sermon on the Mount ends with a comparison of two groups of people, both of whom know Jesus' teachings. One obeys Jesus' teachings, the other doesn't. One stands firm, the other collapses into ruin. I'm sure you know which is which.

The Bible is full of similar warnings. “Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.” (James 1:22) “Knowledge puffs up, but love [towards others] builds up.” (1 Corinthians 8:1) Reading magazine articles, listening to sermons, reading the Bible... all these, without obedience, put us in spiritual danger.

Jesus isn't interested in knowledgeable church-goers. He wants obedient disciples. The value of gaining a biblical world view is that it helps us *truly* obey the Lord and love others.

Knowledge without obedience is foolishness, says the Spirit. But the Spirit loves to give understanding to disciples. There may be parts of the Christian faith we don't understand, or teachings we struggle with. Why should the Spirit give us understanding when we don't obey the bits we *do* understand? “I have more understanding than the elders, *because* I obey your precepts.” (Psalm 119:100) Are you confused or puzzled about Christian teaching on the end-times, predestination or sex (to pick three frequently controversial issues)? Maybe Jesus would answer us not with more teaching on such areas, but with a question about our use of money and possessions. After all, some 15% of his teachings were on this issue!

Tim Vasby-Burnie
www.vasbyburnie.net

The PCC met on Wednesday 17 September 2008 and the following matters were reported on, discussed and/or decided.

- GAFCON (Global Anglican Future Conference) was the subject of an open discussion. It was agreed that a letter be written by the Vicar on behalf of the PCC to Bishop Jonathan to express its support for the Bishop's public stance on issues concerning human sexuality as he has upheld Biblical teaching. We are grateful for his clarity on this issue. PCC members are to discuss the GAFCON statement and decide what our united stance will be at the next meeting in November.
- A suggestion was made that we should occasionally consider distributing communion to those who are unable to come up to the altar rail first, instead of leaving them to the end. The Vicar is to consider how this could be achieved.
- The Mission Task Group has joined with Oulton, as many of the mission partners are supported by both churches. At their next meeting in January 2009 they will be considering next year's charitable giving. If you have any requests or suggestions for this, please contact Cecilia Wilding.
- Progress is being made with the necessary applications for our plans to improve the access between the church and the centre. The Diocesan Advisory Committee have set out their requirements with regards to the proposed work and the application for planning permission has been submitted.
- Adam Rushton has produced a draft publicity flyer. The purpose of the flyer is an outreach initiative to the local community. The idea is to involve the youth groups in a street by street distribution and builds upon our ideas for developing our ministry. His ideas are at an early stage and he welcomes any comments or suggestions.

The next PCC meeting is on Wednesday 19 November 2008 at 7.30pm.

A service for the bereaved

Grief is the term we use to describe the emotions of bereavement. The impact of the death of a loved relative or friend lasts longer than we sometimes think or admit. As part of our support of the bereaved we, as a church, keep in contact with families and hold a special service once a year. This year we will be holding our annual service for the bereaved on Sunday 9th November at 4.00 p.m. in Christ Church, Stone.

The service is open to whoever would like to attend, whether their bereavement was in the recent or distant past. We do, however, specifically invite those who we have had contact with through conducting funerals during the last year, unless they have been very recently bereaved in which case we usually leave this until the next year.

If you intend to come then it is helpful to contact the Benefice office with some details so that your loved one can be remembered during the service. We can give you more information if you would like.

Paul Kingman.

Sermons from the end of November

In the mornings at Christ Church and Oulton we will look at the message of Jeremiah, prophet of the heart. The nickname is due to the fact that Jeremiah constantly addresses the hearts of his listeners to encourage a return to God and holds out the promise of being given a new heart.

At Moddershall and in the evening services we will look at a series of prophecies about Jesus, the promised Messiah – a topic we usually read through in our carol services. Here we take a little more time to consider the Old Testament promises that came to glorious fulfilment in the birth of Christ.

Paul Kingman.

The Knight's Quest children's holiday club

We are already planning for our next children's holiday club next year called The Knight's Quest. The club will run from Tuesday 14th April to Friday 17th April 2009 with a special service on Sunday 19th April.

Sue Kingman.

Sunday 30th November

**Visit of Mike & Sylvia FAWDREY
of
MISSION AVIATION FELLOWSHIP**

to the Morning Services at both Christ Church and Oulton

They will be showing a DVD and Powerpoint presentation of MAF's work in developing countries in Africa and Asia.

Mission Aviation Fellowship is a Christian organisation whose mission is to fly light aircraft in developing countries so that people in remote areas can receive the help they need. Since 1946, their planes have been speeding the spread of the Good News of the Lord Jesus Christ by word and deed in places of deepest human need – isolated places where flying is not a luxury but a lifeline. (See p6-7 of October magazine for more detail)

Prayer is not a shopping list. But it is a response to God's prompting us, for example:-

While Joshua was fighting the Amalakites, he needed Moses to pray for him. When Moses lifted his hands to the LORD, Joshua was winning the battle, but when Moses arms grew tired and he lowered his arms, the Amalakites were winning, so Aaron and Hur sat Moses on a seat and kept his arms raised to the LORD until the battle was won. (Exodus ch.17 v 8 – 16). Therefore, when we pray for our loved ones, our government, our churches, and the world, we lift them to God and persevere until he gives us the victory. This may come quickly or it may take many years, but if it is in God's will it surely will be successful.

We praise God that we can say with Moses, "The LORD is our banner," for hands were lifted up to the throne of the LORD. (Exodus ch.17 v 16). It is a tremendous privilege that we have in bringing our prayers to God in accordance with his will, so let us make the most of our time before the Lord. Also never let us forget to praise and thank God for who He is and for all the prayers He has answered.

Kath Thompson

Christianity Explored

- Who is Jesus?
- Why did Jesus come?
- What does it mean to follow Jesus?

Although many people don't attend church, it doesn't mean that people don't pray, believe in God or have genuine questions about faith, Jesus and heaven.

Christianity Explored is for anyone who wants to investigate the Christian faith in a friendly and informal setting. Whether you have experience of Church, Christians and the Bible, or none at all, this course is for you as we look at the life and teachings of Jesus and give time to discover what it is all about.

The course is running for seven sessions on Sunday evenings, beginning at 6:00 p.m. with a light supper. After a short discussion of the course material from the previous week, there is a DVD talk followed by the opportunity to share your thoughts with others and to ask any questions that may have arisen. Alternatively you may prefer to simply listen, as others talk. It's up to you. The evening finishes by around 7.45 p.m.

Venue: Christ Church Centre, Christ Church Way, Stone ST15 8ZB
[T: 8112990 or E-mail christchurchcentre1@btinternet.com].

Registration: contact the church office for a registration form with your name and address and any special dietary advice.

For more information see the national *Christianity Explored* website [www.christianityexplored.org], or talk to the vicar Paul Kingman [T: 812669].

Christ Church First School

At the time of writing this article we are at the beginning of the Autumn Term. Year 4 are very pleased to be writing this article and here is their news about our school!

Back to school we have had a great time in year four so far this term . I think everyone in our school loves their new Class. All the classes love their new teachers especially Reception. There are 24 children in the class. There are 11 girls and 13 boys. There are 2 from Poland,1 from Portugal and 1 from Vietnam. They like to ride bikes,sing,play with the sand pit, play in water and they like to colour and they are all really cute!. We are now going to tell you about the things we have done so far this term. Let us tell you about our school.

We have been successful in our bid to be part of the Comenius project. The Comenius project provides funding for partnerships between schools and colleges across Europe.

There will be multilateral and bilateral links between the UK and other European countries within a two year duration.

This means that all our children will benefit from this exciting project! We now need to decide which teachers will be visiting France, Poland and Turkey.

At harvest you have to bring tins of food in. On September 29th we celebrated harvest with a service of praise and thanksgiving in church. The Salvation Army came to collect the tins of food and speak to us in Church.

We are pleased to tell you that our choir have again been invited to sing at the Victoria hall on December 7th for the Douglas McMillan Hospice. We are really looking forward to it!

Year 4 have visited Stonefield Park to look at habitats and the organisms that live there.

For two days Museum on the Move have enthralled and delighted all our school with a wonderful display of life in the past, including life on the canal and a look at a variety of rocks from under the ground.

With best Wishes from Year Four
Christ Church First School

This article has been produced entirely by Year 4 children

11 Staffordshire Historic Churches Ride and Stride

On a sunny Saturday in September, Sandra rode 28 miles and visited 14 churches in the Eccleshall area and Margaret and Dorothy strode 12 miles [each!] and visited 12 churches in Stafford. We met people we knew and walked all day with two from St.Bertelin's. We received such a welcome - and refreshments as we went from church to church, that I thought next year we must open our church.

We have sent over £200 to the Trust, half of which will be returned for our Church.
Dorothy Wilson

Staffordshire Historic Churches Trust Sponsored Cycle ride and Walk

Saturday 13th September 2008

We were blessed with beautiful warm sunny weather. I set off at 10.00am calling at Christ Church Stone, to register, then Aston by Stone, travelling along the canal towpath.

Chris picked me up in the car and we travelled to Eccleshall to begin our ride. Chris had planned the route with minimum mile and maximum churches in mind.

Staffordshire has some beautiful villages boasting many picturesque churches and chapels. We met some interesting people who kindly offered us drinks and refreshments. Sadly many had stories of diminishing congregations. One church had six members only.

Towards the end of the ride, when I was feeling tired, Chris suggested a short cut along a track. He said the track was half a mile long but would save us two miles on the road, reluctantly I agreed, much to my regret. I not only fell off my bike twice and got very muddy; when I finally emerged onto the road again we discovered my tyre had been impaled on a hawthorn twig – the dreaded puncture. Chris pulled out the thorn followed by a loud hissing noise, Oh No! However my tyres apparently are filled with gunk (a self sealing chemical) so anxiously I continued the ride. After 28.2 miles and visiting 14 churches we arrived back in Eccleshall. Thank you so much all who sponsored me - £119.00 was raised.

Chris & Sandra Morray

12 Roger Jones Holiday Week at Lee Abbey, Devon

It is nearly a year ago that Irene and Cecilia decided to book for the Roger Jones Holiday Week at Lee Abbey Lynton, North Devon, and then wondered whether they were up to it! Both had sung in Roger Jones musicals before – ‘Torn Curtain’, ‘Angel Voices’, ‘While Shepherds Watched’ – but neither of them would claim to have amazingly good voices, just enjoy singing in a choir. During the holiday week, they would be rehearsing the musical ‘Pharisee’ and then be performing it on the final evening. Roger Jones and his team would be preparing them – musicians and vocalists. What would it be like?

The time comes to travel down on a Saturday at the beginning of August. In previous years, Cecilia has driven down to Lee Abbey – a long but simple journey down the M6 and M5 to the Tiverton turn-off and then over Exmoor to Lynton. But, now Cecilia is not allowed to drive and so the journey has to be by train – on a holiday Saturday! Irene has booked tickets and made arrangements for us to be assisted at rail stations as we are both a bit incapacitated.

Margaret comes to collect us to take us to Stafford station. We arrive at the station and try to get out of the car, only to discover that Irene is stuck in the back. A group of foreign young people are nearby and Cecilia pleads for help. A strong young man finally lifts Irene out – grateful thanks and some blushes!

Another young man meets us in the station and, when the train comes in, helps us onto the packed train – and then has to escape before finding us our seats because otherwise, he might be on his way to Devon with us!! Irene stoically fights through the standing passengers and locates our booked seats and persuades the occupants to relinquish them to us, which they do with good grace. We manage to find somewhere for our luggage and sit back in relief. The journey is under way.

All works out at Exeter St David’s station where we are to change onto a Barnstaple train. Once more we are met and helped with our luggage. There are still a lot of passengers for the small train but enough seats for all. The train meanders through the beautiful, green, Devon countryside and, after an hour or so, we arrive in Barnstaple where our taxi awaits us, and we are soon on our way to Lee Abbey. We drive swiftly but safely along narrow, twisting, green lanes until, finally, we top a hill and there is the sea below us, rather grey on this occasion, but still the shore rugged in its beauty. We skirt Lynton and wend our way through the Valley of the Rocks – seeing some of the renowned wild goats on our way – and then through the gates and over the cattle grid into the extensive Lee Abbey grounds and round to reception.

(continued on next page)

Roger Jones Holiday Week *(continued)*

The cases unloaded and taxi-man paid, we check in at reception where we receive a friendly greeting from members of the Lee Abbey community – a Christian community of some 80-90 mostly young people from many countries who are learning to live in community and serve in the house and grounds and generally look after the needs of around 110 guests. We are given our room keys, and helped up to our rooms by one of the community. We sense a warm welcome and love in the place. We have small but comfortable single rooms over-looking the courtyard. Having seen our rooms and left our luggage, we find our way down to the gallery for a very welcome cup of tea and cake. We gaze out of the gallery windows down at Lee Bay tucked in at the foot of the cliffs below us, and thrill again at the beauty of the coastline which we know will be even more breath-taking when the weather's brighter. Our holiday has begun!!

We mix with the other guests and find that many of them have been on Roger Jones weeks before so know what to expect. We have both bought the music book and CD of 'Pharisee' and familiarised ourselves with the songs before coming to Lee Abbey but we realise we are novices. Will we manage OK? Will our contribution be acceptable?

After our evening meal in the packed dining room, where community and guests eat together, we meet in the 'octag', the octagonal lounge from which we can again enjoy views of the coastline below. This first evening we sing and play through sections of the 'Pharisee' musical led by Roger himself so we get the feel of it. Then, after hot chocolate, a time of quiet reflection in the chapel led by one of our host team, we go tired to bed. It had been a very full day.

And so the holiday continues. Days follow a pattern - breakfast, a time of worship and teaching mid-morning, coffee, rehearsal, lunch, a walk or some other organised activity or do what we like until mid-afternoon tea and cake, further free time before evening meal at 6.30pm, 8.00pm organised activity, 9.30pm time of reflection in the chapel and then drift off to bed if we don't want to watch a late night film or join some other activity going on late. All activities are optional, including meals, which we can skip, provided we write in a book to let the kitchen know ahead of time. The meals are good – wholesome, not fancy. And if you're feeling peckish in the afternoon, you can meander down towards the bay to the tea cottage run by the community – delicious cream teas and cakes. The climb up the hill to the house afterwards will get rid of some of the extra calories!!

Rehearsals are quite hard work, but very worthwhile. The performance on the last evening is a little nerve-wracking. We know we are not perfect! Roger conducts us and generally urges us on to do more than we think possible. The sense of the Holy Spirit enabling us, especially the nervous soloists, is tangible, and we are so aware that we are singing and playing, not for our own glory but for our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, telling forth the message of His saving love. It is an amazing experience. The next morning, it's all over – for this year anyway. Next year, the Roger Jones Holiday Week is in mid-July. Irene and Cecilia are planning to go again. Would anyone like to join us?

Excerpt from the Lee Family's September Link Letter

This is an excerpt from Tim and Kate's letter to their Link Churches (Christ Church is one) which they wrote in September soon after their return to Manila where they work with street children and families:

'Being away from Manila helped us to regain our perspective on what we are doing here and why. The beginning of our time in the UK was difficult and we were struggling with the question: "What's the point of life?" If poverty will always be with us, global warming getting worse and the world food supply dwindling- why bother? It was all rather depressing. Over the time that we were home, however, through different people and the teaching we received during Keswick week, we came to the wonderful realisation that the purpose of life is to obey God. That simple! So for us, obeying God is to be in Manila and working to build Jigsaw into an organisation that Filipinos can run to share Christ with kids and their families in deprived areas. We felt released from questioning "Why are we in the Philippines? Is it sustainable? What good are we doing?" We can't see the bigger picture and probably never will but we are confident that God is in control, sovereign and that his ways are best even if they may seem crazy to the world. So we return with renewed vigour and excitement as to what God will do this next year.'

(The full text of Tim & Kate's letter is in the red folder underneath the Overseas Mission notice board in the Centre. More news and items for praise and prayer for them and their work is in the pull-out prayer diary in the middle of this magazine.)

God is near to you
You just need
To get closer
 To see Him

Prayer Circle

There are times when many of us need some support - mainly, I suppose, it would be practical help, but sometimes we need prayer. At Christ Church we have a group of people who support through prayer for needs at crisis times. It works like this - you ring one of the people on the 'circle' and he/she rings onto the next person who rings the next and so on round the circle. So, you know that you have a group of people who are lifting you and your situation in prayer. This is, of course, confidential.

So, in confidence, ring any of the following to access the 'circle'.

Gail Banks. Ann Butler, Jan & John Butterworth, Dilys Davies, Irene -jGassor, Joanne Hipkiss, Mary & George Holden. Sue & Paul Kingman, Ljz Mason, Jeanette & Dave Rowlands, Tim Saxton, Kath & Mike Thompson, Caroline & Tim Vasby-Burnie, Sally Vaughan. Cecilia Wilding, Estella Woodhead.

'For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.'
Matthew 18v20 Jeanette Rowlands

"Answered Prayer..... "

I always find it very encouraging to read about recent incidences of God's protection and presence with Christians in dangerous situations. The following report comes from the "Durham Newslink", the newspaper for the Durham diocese (September issue).

Bishop Tom Wright, Bishop of Durham, writing about the Lambeth Conference, records how deeply privileged he felt to stand alongside some real heroes and heroines of the faith.

One such person was in his Bible Study: "Ian Ernest, the Archbishop of Mauritius and Chair of the Anglican Provinces in Africa, told us how one day he and two colleagues, on a journey, were confronted by a hostile border guard. They stood there, holding hands and praying silently, as he pointed his gun at them. Eventually he let them go. When they came back the next day to continue their journey, he said, "I was going to shoot all three of you. But I saw four."

Bishop Tom then comments: "Suddenly the book of Daniel sprang to life. And here was I reading the Bible and praying with this delightful man who had risked his life for the gospel"

Sally Vaughan

Commissioning Service for Guides

On Friday evening the 10th October a commissioning service took place in Christ Church for 33 Guides and Leaders of the Stone Outward Division Guides before they departed the following Wednesday for Mombasa. This was the culmination of two years hard work preparing and fund raising for the project in hand. They will be working alongside Pastor Joshua renovating his church, the school and the orphanage. More details about their project can be seen on page ...

The service began by singing a song in Swahili, the language spoken in Mombassa and which the girls have been learning. This was followed by a song known to us all “We are marching in the light of God”. Maureen Recine, the Division Commissioner who is accompanying the girls, gave a slide presentation of some of the things to be taken on by the girls. We saw pictures of the children from the orphanage each of whom has been in contact with one of the girls. Over the time of preparation we were told that £65,504.22 had been raised some of which has already been spent on land for a new church. Prayers were led by the Rev Noreen Russell who is the Chaplain to the Stone Outward Division. Her prayers included a prayer which had been sent specially by Pastor Joshua. The lesson from Mark 10 vs 35-45 was read by Alice one of the Guides taking part. This was followed with a talk by Paul based on the lesson where he talked about three contrasts: concerning “rank” a contrast between giving and self seeking; “dignity” a contrast between status and service; you stay as a team if you unite around Jesus. If you take Jesus as a your model he was a leader and yet was humble acting as a servant; and also “goals” whether your goal is for comfort or to suffer. When we are put in charge we feel that we are more important than anyone else. The more comfortable we become the more we lose sight of Jesus. Paul pointed out that there may be low moments whilst they are in Mombasa, but when we read the last verse of the lesson “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many”, if we become one of the “many” and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and walk in his way – then we will be a blessing to God and those you visit. The service ended with a Commissioning prayer and the song “Shine Jesus Shine”. The evening concluded with a get together in the church centre for refreshments.

Irene Gassor

Girlguiding Stone Outward Division

SMILE TU “Lights” project

SMILE (supporting Mombasa in a learning experience)

TU 2nd visit & Tumaini

Lights Let international Guiding Help Tumaini Shine

July 2005

26 members travelled to Mikoroshoni School and carried out the work project there. Whilst there I met Joan Smith who was trying to build a home for children affected or infected with HIV & Aids. We also attended the Church of Zion for a very moving service. Joshua is the Pastor of the Church and also Headmaster of the School. The church was a rented building which was later taken over by drinkers and drug takers so the church moved away and then met in a shelter they built on the school playground

October 2006

We selected a team to travel back to Kenya, 23 girls and 10 leaders. Five of the leaders travelled on the 2005 project everyone else is new. Fundraising and training started in October. Subjects covered in training have included HIV & Aids, bereavement team building, Swahili speaking, joinery, bricklaying, plastering and plumbing, summer school sessions, first aid, health & safety and much more. The fundraising has been more successful than we could have hoped for and we have raised £65, 700. Some of the things we have done are, collecting Christmas trees, ink cartridges, mobile phones and tin foil for recycling. Written a cookery book, taken over Granville's and served Kenyan Cuisine to 140 people, sold soup, walked a Tumaini trek, gardening, meet the puppies, cycled, held dances, a raffle, packed bags, baked, given talks, collected copper, worked with local schools, packed shopping bags, housework and much more.

The project

We shall be decorating 2 dormitories, dining room, refurbish a consulting room, build a section of a school building, design and build a play area. A small hospice is in place for six very sick children and we shall be decorating and installing a sensory room. In addition we shall provide summer school sessions for the children at Mikoroshoni Primary School and spend time with guiding units in Mombasa and visit the Port Reitz School for physically and mentally handicapped children. We are inviting all the brownies and guides from Mombasa to a campfire.

(continued on next page)

We have bought a small plot of land for the Church of Zion. This will be used as a community centre as well and I have worked with Joshua to look at ways they can make it self funding. We have given money for a temporary structure to be built which the Elders of Church have now completed and the first service was held in the Church 3 weeks ago. We have started a Guide Unit and we shall be with them for the first promise ceremony in the building. The cross which shall use in the service on Friday has been donated by Stone Lions and we shall present it to them during the service. Joshua is holding a service in Church at the same time as ours and Joan is taking the Children from Tumaini to Church on that night to pray for our safe arrival

Tumaini Children’s Home is the brainchild and goal of Joan Smith. The home opened in November 05 after many years of raising funds and acquiring the land to build on. Everything has been donated. As of 23rd June 2008 they had accepted 24 children. There will be room for 60 children. There are two dormitories, taking 30 girls and 30 boys who are infected, or affected by the HIV/AIDS virus. Most are orphaned. When the school is open they can accept more children as at present one dormitory is being used as a school room. The Home will also include a hospice for 4 terminally ill children who will be nursed and cared for, so that they may have a peaceful and loving end to their fragile lives.

Other children at the home will find a friendly and loving welcome and they will go on to a programme of diet, exercise, and medication. With this programme these children can grow to adulthood and carry their message of Hope to others.

Maureen Recine

2nd November

Albert Street
Alexandra Street
Arthur Street
Berkeley Street

9th November

Chestnut Grove
Edward Street
Field Terrace
Old Road, Alma Street


16th November

Meaford Avenue
Mount Avenue
Mount Crescent
Mount Road

23rd November

Mount Street
Kent Grove
Stonefield Court
Stonefield Square

30th November

Victor Street
Victoria Street
Whitebridge Lane
Field House Terrace

3rd Stone (Christ Church) Brownies

3rd Stone Brownies meet on Monday evenings during term time at Christ Church First School, Northesk Street from 6.00pm – 7.30pm.

We welcome girls from the age of 7 up to 10+ and provide a variety of experiences within a safe environment that is not education based – each child achieves their best with no academic pressure. We take part in local community parades i.e. Remembrance, Thinking Day and Stone Festival. We join with other groups for outdoor activities and Pack Holidays.

We have recently completed our Fire Safety Badge with visits to Staffordshire Fire & Rescue Headquarters and Stone Fire Station. We are starting to learn about orienteering and hope to take part in a local activity in November. We do lots of Christmas crafts and in the New Year we are working on our First Aid and Crime Prevention badges. While we like to work as pack on badges we are quite happy to support individual girls in specific badges relating to their hobbies or pastimes.

If you would like to know more please contact me Janet Smith – Guider in Charge on 01785 815939 or 07817938588, I do work fulltime so evenings are best.

FROM THE REGISTERS

BAPTISM

28th September Tessa Elizabeth Sullivan

FUNERALS

8th October Rosemary Blakeman age 63
Stafford Crematorium

3rd October Reginald Harold Cooper age 75

5th October Doris Scragg age 85

SIDESPERSIONS ROTA

2nd November J. Abrahams, T. MacFarlane
A. West, D. Pickles

9th November V. Ledward, K. Thompson
J. Rowlands, C. Wilding

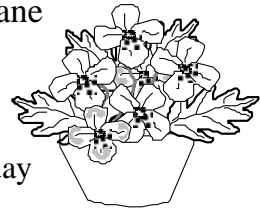
16th November D. Wilson, A. Greer
I. Gassor, G. Holden

23rd November P. Hipkiss, D. Davies
B. Hutchinson, M. Hutchinson

30th November J. Abrahams, D. Davies
A. West, T. MacFarlane

FLOWER ROTA

2nd November Mrs L. Boston
9th November Remembrance Sunday
16th November Mrs M. Hillman
23rd November Mrs D. Tunstall
30th November Mrs N. Challinor



Christ Church on the Internet

Parish website www.churches.lichfield.anglican.org/stone/stonecc

Parish office email christchurch.centrel@btinternet.com

Magazine contributions christchurch_mag@yahoo.co.uk

Deanery Synod Reps	Mrs S Hallam, Mr I Hawley, Mr D. Rowlands
P.C.C. Members	Mrs I Gassor, Mrs M Hillman, Mrs E Mason, Mr P Mason Mrs D Wilson, Mrs E Woodhead, Mrs J. Rowlands Mrs J Abrahams, Mr K Reynolds, Mr A Stone Mrs M Garrington-Miller, Mr G Holden, Mrs D Davies
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 Circle	Jeanette Rowlands.....816713
Pastoral Care Group	Ann Butler.....818160
Parents & Toddlers (Mon 9.30 – 11.15am)	Sandra Morray.....286093
Friday "Little Fishes" (Fri 11am – 1.30pm)	Cecilia Wilding.....817987

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 **Friday Little Fishes** 11.00 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