

Christ Church and People

40p



Parish Magazine of
Christ Church Stone



October 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 17 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	
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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In This Issue

Christ Church



and People

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

Cover Story:- Old Road

October 2008

Wed	1	7:30pm	Prayer group at 20 Barnton Edge
Thu	2	1:20pm	Christ Church Middle School assembly
Fri	3		
Sat	4	8:30am 9:00am	Prayer meeting Breakfast in the Centre
Sun	5	9:15am 6:00pm	Communion. John 5:16-30 "The greater life" Ordination of Tim Vasby-Burnie, All Saints, Madeley
Mon	6	9:00am 7:00pm	Prayers for schools and young people Cornerstone for teenagers
Tue	7	9:30am 10:00am 12:30pm 7:30pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before midweek service: service at 10:30 Seekers Club at Christ Church Middle School Christ Church Youth Club
Wed	8	7:30pm	Prayer group at 20 Barnton Edge
Thu	9	1:20pm	Christ Church Middle School assembly
Fri	10	7:30pm	Guides service
Sat	11		
Sun	12	9:15am 6:00pm	Morning Prayer: John 8:48-58 "Greater than Abraham" Christianity Explored 1 in Church Centre
Mon	13	9:00am 7:00pm	Prayers for schools and young people Cornerstone for teenagers
Tue	14	9:30am 10:00am 12:30pm 7:30pm 7:30pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before midweek service: service at 10:30 Seekers Club at Christ Church Middle School Christ Church Youth Club Stone Deanery Synod at Standon Church
Wed	15	10:00am 1:10pm 7:30pm 8:00pm	Men's meeting Year 11 assembly at Alleyne's Prayer Group at 20 Barnton Edge Evening prayer meeting at Christ Church
Thu	16	1:20pm 2:00pm	Christ Church Middle School assembly Stone Deanery Mother's Union service at Oulton

October 2008

Fri	17		
Sat	18	8:00am 10:00am	Men's breakfast Training on bereavement for Pastoral Care Group
Sun	19	9:15am 6:00pm	Communion. John 10:22-42 "Greater than all" Christianity Explored 2 in the Centre
Mon	20	9:00am 1:10pm 7:00pm	Prayers for schools and young people Sixth Form assembly at Alleyne's Cornerstone for teenagers
Tue	21	9:30am 10:00am 10:30am 12:30pm 1:00pm 7:30pm 8:00pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before midweek service Midweek service Seekers Club at Christ Church Middle School Fraternal meeting Christ Church Youth Club Housegroup at 2 The Glen
Wed	22	7:30pm	Prayer Group at 20 Barnton Edge
Thu	23	1:20pm 7:30pm	Christ Church Middle School assembly Induction of Stephen MacKenzie at Tittensor church
Fri	24		
Sat	25	9:30am	Diocesan Synod meeting
Sun	26	9:15am 10:15am 6:00pm	Family service John 13:1-17 "Not greater than the master" Fair Trade stall in the Centre Christianity Explored 3 in the Centre
Mon	27	9:00am 7:00pm	Prayers for schools and young people Cornerstone for teenagers
Tue	28	10:00am 10:30am 7:30pm	Coffee before midweek service Midweek service Christ Church Youth Club
Wed	29		
Thu	30		
Fri	31	5:00pm	Light Party in the Centre

Christian ministry

A rash of new faces have been around our churches recently. Several new people have come to exercise Christian ministry or recently started a new stage of ministry.

It began on the last day of August with a marquee service as we enjoyed welcoming Adam Rushton as Assistant Minister for youth to our benefice. Then came a special weekend at home for our churches (a 'staycation'?) where Revd John Hamilton, a visiting speaker, helped us to get a better grip on our gospel mission - which requires courage, sticking to the Bible's message, prayerful dependence on God, encouraging one another through being part of the fellowship and persevering when the going gets tough. We've also just commissioned our Sunday School teachers as they embark on a new church year of teaching asking God to equip them for the task. We enjoyed a visit from a new missionary link and his family who are training to work in India with local church ministers. Now, in October, we celebrate our curate Tim's ordination, alongside others in our Diocese of Lichfield, as he has proven trustworthy during his time of having a provisional licence for ministry.

What, if any, is the common thread? What is at the heart of all Christian ministries? There is only one occasion when Christian ministry is described in priestly language in the New Testament. The apostle Paul describes how by God's grace he has been entrusted with a particular ministry to the non-Jewish people: "to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles with the priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God, so that the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit" (Rom 15v16). Two words are of note. He is a minister – the word referring either to those who served in the government or in the temple. Paul's initial point is that the Christian minister gives important service to the kingdom of Jesus. But he also talks about his priestly service defined as the missionary task of winning the Gentiles to Christ and so bringing them as a holy offering to God. This is amazing stuff since the Gentiles (non-Jews) were considered defiled and totally unfit for the presence of God. Each Christian is to play a part in this great privilege as an ambassador of Christ: armed with the simple gospel message, calling on God in prayer and given the help of the Holy Spirit - people are brought to the obedience of faith in Christ. This is the same 'vision' that Jesus had and put into action. It is the same for all Christians today and leads to the joyful service of God.

There is no higher or more important calling to fulfil. So, come and join God's people as we discover more about this Christian ministry together.

Paul Kingman.



Putting on the Mind of Christ

A “world view” is the set of assumptions and values we have, through which we try to make sense of life. I am faithful to my wife because I value her feelings, I believe adultery would wreck my life and because Jesus models faithfulness. Someone else with a world view that, say, emphasised the priority of expressing one's own feelings and idolised a care-free life might not be so committed to marital faithfulness. The difference lies in this thing I am calling “world view”.

Jesus was abundantly clear: his view on the world is true because he *is* the Truth. God's values will always differ from those of any culture. Sure, there will be some overlap, especially in countries that have been shaped by Christian values for centuries, but there will also be conflict. The Way of Jesus Christ leads in a different direction from all other paths.

The Bible is crucial for developing a true (that is, Jesus-centred) world view. By the Bible the Holy Spirit renews our minds, so that instead of conforming to the world we offer ourselves as living sacrifices to God (Romans 12:1-2). Through the Bible we learn to value what God values, instead of what the media values. Through the Scripture we discover how to relate to others for their good, “good” being defined by Jesus and not by our traditions and culture. This is a process that goes on for the entirety of our lives. And it is a joy: putting on the mind of Christ means freedom from “hollow and deceptive” world views that enslave us (Colossians 2:8). Building our lives on the rock of Jesus' words means security against the storms and floods of life that wash away what is built on worldly foundations of sand (Matthew 8:24-29).

This means meditating on God's Words frequently – ask the Church Office for a copy of the excellent *Explore* Bible reading notes. God gives husbands and fathers a specific responsibility to ensure the Scriptures are at the heart of family life. Please pray for all who teach the Bible, whether in the pulpit on Sunday, in our home fellowship groups or assemblies. Without the Bible our world view will always be faulty; with it we have a light in a dark world.

Tim Vasby-Burnie
www.vasbyburnie.net

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, our 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.

Every three minutes, an MAF plane is taking off or landing somewhere in the world. These flights enable crucial work by many development and aid agencies, missions, local churches and other national groups. Medical care, adequate food, clean water and Christian hope are reaching countless thousands of men, women and children. MAF's work is vital. Lives depend on it.

Normally, passengers contribute a highly-subsidised fare towards the true cost. The balance that makes flights possible comes as gifts from people concerned that others should have a better life spiritually and physically. In the UK, MAF is a registered charity funded by voluntary gifts which help finance MAF's operational work and support services. MAF works all over the world- here is an example from Tanzania:

Each month our regular 'safari' flights in Tanzania take medical teams, often accompanied by evangelists, to several destinations. Evangelist Ruth Kambenga joins the flight to Mahaka. When Ruth first visited Mahaka, three very small churches totalled 30 members. Now there are more than 200 Christians in the community. Nomadic Wasukuma people asked Ruth to pray for rain during a dry spell. She told them, "You can pray to God". After listening to news about Jesus and the grace of God, they prayed for rain and that God would heal their sick cows. Next day it rained - and the cows began to regain strength.

'The next time we visited Mahaka, they told us, "We are starting to believe in this God"' reported Ruth. 'But the following visit, the rains had disappeared. One man had gone to a witchdoctor to pray for rain. We explained that you cannot have two gods'

(continued on next page)

Then the herdsmen replied; “Yes, the God you told us about is a God of forgiveness. We must ask for forgiveness for seeking other gods and for not believing that he would take care of us.”

‘Next day it rained again. We rejoiced with the Wasukuma.’

Ruth and her team have created an environment where everyone feels comfortable listening to the Word. That helped 25-year-old Damas. Once he worshipped stones and trees, as well as offering sacrifices on his grandfather’s grave.

‘I told him about worshipping a God who keeps us safe and looks after all our affairs, who has power over diseases, hunger and war, and who brings peace to our hearts,’ Ruth remembers. Now he is a Christian with growing faith.’

Young Samuel frequently ran away from home because he heard a voice telling him to leave. As evangelists talked with him, they discovered his mother was a witchdoctor. They prayed with Samuel - and now he is at school.

That’s the sort of change Ruth is working to see in the lives of many more villagers in Mahaka.

So much more is happening because our plane goes there monthly.

(MAF is one of the organisations supported by Christ Church from our regular income.)

A Summer of Socials

Although you may have blinked and missed the summer, I am reliably informed there was one! The weather may not have brought much sunshine but many of us brightened our days by meeting together at various social events during July, August and September.

Food and fellowship seemed to appear at most events, whether it be a cream tea in the Vicarage gardens (in the sunshine) or delicious cakes at two coffee mornings. Much cheese and wine was consumed on a balmy evening at Geoff and Marilyn Hillman's house; thankfully the thunderstorm held off until the last drops were drunk! A barbecue at the Curatage (is that a word?) was a bit more blustery but copious quantities of meat kept us weighed down.

The pub evenings at Wetherspoons were well attended. It was familiar surroundings for the Christ Church Youth Club leaders who retreat there every Tuesday evening for a “de-brief”... You are more than welcome to join for a drink any Tuesday from about 9:30pm onwards. The first pub meeting, on the 5th of August, was particularly special as we celebrated a significant birthday for Ian Campbell-Kelly. Those who were there will have fond memories of a last real ale with Geoff Parsons who died later that week.

Fortunately, two walks and a visit to Shallowford House helped us burn off some of those calories. We put them all back on again, and then some, at the welcome tea for Adam, Helen Clare and Eden Rushton. We did our best to raise the roof of the marquee in praise to Jesus Christ, ably led by our enthusiastic musicians from across the benefice. A big thank you to Lynne Collier for arranging our special venue in her gardens. Our programme of summer social culminated a week later with great time together at our Church Family Weekend.

Whatever the event the fellowship we shared was key to making them so successful. New friends were made, much laughter was had – it was a delight to realise that we are brothers and sisters in Christ all week around, not simply on Sundays. Here's to Summer 2009!

Caroline Vasby-Burnie

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 runs 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].

Start date: Sunday 12th October.

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].

Hello and Mang Pha

We can't believe how quickly these last few months have passed since our arrival in Stone at the end of June. We would also like to thank those of you who have made us feel welcome at Christ Church. However we are off on travels at the end of October, and we would like to invite you to pray for our trip.

Louise's family originates from the Chin Hills in north-western Burma (adjacent to the Burma-Indian border). We hope that we will have the opportunity to visit this area of Burma and some of Louise's extended family. There are two reasons for our visit: The first is to allow John to see Louise's traditional family home. The second is to try and help some of the Chin people who are suffering greatly at the moment.

The Chin Hills are officially completely closed to foreigners which includes us – as British passport holders. Therefore, for us to be allowed to make the journey will require God to miraculously open the door. We do not intend to break the law to make the trip. Travel in the Chin Hills is also extremely arduous as there are no proper roads and the journey from Kalemmyo (the nearest airport) to Tiddim is seldom completed in less than six hours although the distance is only 50 miles.

An additional issue is that the Chin Hills is currently suffering a humanitarian crisis of similar scale to that suffered by the delta region following cyclone Nargis earlier in the year. However since this crisis is not observable by satellites, there has been almost no press coverage. The nature of the problem is that all the crops are being eaten by rats. This breed of rats is very large, smelly and inedible. If you add to this the general shortages caused by cyclone Nargis and international sanctions, together with the government's lack of interest in the ethnically Chin people, there are many people starving. We hope to be able to bring what little relief we can.

If you be prepared to pray for us, then please get in touch and we will provide you with a more detailed prayer letter.

John Shakeshaft and Louise Ciin (811626, john.shakeshaft@physics.org)

(For those of you wondering 'Mang Pha' is the Chin phrase for good-bye!)

The work of Simeon's Trustees

Simeon's trustees seek, by the grace of God, to find God's choice for the new vicar of a parish where a vacancy occurs. Although trustees have the specific responsibility to fill a vacancy, in practice trustees work cooperatively with the Bishop and/or Archdeacon and the appointed parish reps. When a vacancy occurs a trustee is chosen to represent all the trustees in the appointment process and, as patron, the trustees usually administer that process. One of the first things that trustee seeks to do is to visit the parish and meet with the P.C.C; usually, this is helpful both for the trustee and the P.C.C. No fees are charged for the work involved in making an appointment; although it should be noted that the P.C.C. is responsible for paying the costs of any advertisements.

In addition, trustees are happy to visit parishes at other times for special occasions or to preach, or to advise regarding some given situation. However, in those circumstances payment of expenses is usually requested, as the trustees have no regular income besides donations.

There are about fourteen trustees, spread across England. The trustees are not paid and do this work in their 'spare time'. To facilitate our work a very efficient Administrative Secretary is employed, on a part-time basis.

Trustees act together even if we are usually represented by just one trustee for any given appointment. When appointing trustees we also look to have representations from the various strands of evangelical Anglican life. The trustees meet together about eight times a year to pray for and discuss current vacancies.

Kim Hitch

Treasurer to Simeon's Trustees

(All three churches in our benefice are Simeon Trust churches)

Church Weekend 5-7th September

Following the modern trend for “stay-cations” and other credit-crunch economy measures, we had a “church weekend at home”, during which we came to church each day but went home each night. John Hamilton came from rural Hampshire to tell us about “Gospel Mission” (I think he did stay away from home each night). What did we think was the best thing about the weekend?

the Food *getting to know people I should have known earlier*
Beetle drive was fun

John's talks *the singing*

Meeting people from other churches in the benefice

The discussion groups

Enjoying talks and everyone else enjoying them too

the relay race
fellowship

the Food

Looking forward to what we would learn next day

fun

the Food

Solid message in the talks

The worship times

Prayer groups

meeting new people

Prayer in Time of War

Virtually every day, we are reminded when we turn on the television or pick up the newspaper that there is a war going on in Iraq and Afghanistan. These are difficult times, and all we should feel the urgent need to spend more time with God in prayer. We pray for the safety of our troops. We pray for a quick end to the conflict. But, beyond that, what should we pray for? Here are 7 suggestions.

1. "Lord, do something that will show people your glory over all the earth."

This is a moment for God to do something that no diplomat, no world leader, no army could possibly do - so all will know that "the Lord He is God."

2. "Lord, use these anxious and uncertain times to bring many to Christ."

God can use this fearful time to reach the hearts of many - in Iraq, in Afghanistan, in Britain, across the Middle East, and among the young men and women of the military.

3. "Lord, guide our leaders to be instruments of your will on earth."

"I urge ... that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone - for kings and all those in authority." (I Timothy 2:1-2)

4. "Lord, protect the innocent."

5. "Pray for those who mistreat you." (Luke 6:27)

Jesus has charged us to represent even our enemies before His Throne of Grace.

6. "Lord, help your people model peace in these troubled times, pointing the people around them to Jesus - at a time when hearts are soft."

This uncertain time is a life-saving moment - when those who belong to Jesus have an unusual window to introduce Him to those who don't. But the window may not be open for long.

7. "Lord, bring peace out of all that's happening."

God has told us that the result He desires in answer to our prayers for our leaders is a climate where peace and righteousness can flourish (I Tim. 2:2).

We live in troubled times that serve as a reminder of just how much we all need Jesus Christ in our lives. *(from Mike Thompson)*

News from Stephen and Tabita Bell

(Stephen and Tabita are church workers in Zagreb, Croatia)

Hi once again!

Last Sunday (Aug 31st) a new member, Rahela, joined our church! Rahela's son Sven went to the same kindergarten as our son Joshua and she & Tabita met as parents and became friends. She subsequently became a Christian and attended our previous church in Malešnica (they met in 2003 and we left in 2004 for east Zagreb). She was baptised this Sunday and invited us over specially for the after-service barbecue. A real encouragement for us, and especially for Tabita!

ALSO...

We have just added another 60 square metres to our church building by renting the adjoining building, removing the connecting wall. This gives us a required extra 50 spaces, giving us capacity of 140 "comfortably sat".

Here is our latest news:

Sun 7th Sept Evangelistic Service at Opening Ceremony of Enlarged Church premises

Rejoice with us and **pray** that many would visit the church and then want to join.

Pray that a spirit of enthusiastic faith in "planning for growth" would pervade as we "step into the deeps".

Pray these next 9 months that we would fill the extra 50 seats.

Pray that newcomers and members alike would be inspired by seeing "God's people on the move"!

ECM Balkan Prayer Days 25th-29th August

These were great. Thanks for your prayers!

We 8 missionaries from Croatia plus all our children (8) met for encouragement and intercessory prayer. ECM Director Ernie Addicott and his wife Ruby ministered to us during the week.

Many thanks,

Stephen & Tabita Bell

5th October

Bentley Close
 Rendel Grove
 Brindley Close
 Rudyard Close

12th October

Cressey Close
 Joules Drive
 Cauldon Way
 Harecastle Bank

**19th October**

Salterford Rise
 Rolt Close
 Millenium Way
 Cameron Wharf

26th October

The Crescent
 End of Granville Terrace
 Millers Gate
 Harley Drive

Pathfinder Psalm

Give Thanks

He made the whole of the universe
 He gave us light and dark

God gives us non-stop love

He gave us our health

He gave us our families

God gives us non-stop love

He created plants and animals

He gave us friends

God gives us non-stop love

He gave us good weather

He gave us colour

God gives us non-stop love

He gave us music

He gave us books

God gives us non-stop love

He gave me a voice

He gave us clothes

God gives us non-stop love

He gave us all of nature

He gave us a fair nation

God gives us non-stop love

He made everything

He gives us all we need

Pathfinders have
 been reading Psalm
 136 and have written
 a psalm of their own

FROM THE REGISTERS

BAPTISM

24th September

Jessica Olivia Plant

FUNERAL

Stafford Crematorium

8th September

Kenneth Chant

age 87

Sidespersons ROTA

AM

5th October I.Gassor, T.MacFarlane
A. West, D. Pickles

12th October V. Ledward, K. Thompson
J. Rowlands, D. Wilson

19th October C. Wilding, A. Greer
J. Abrahams, G. Holden

26th October P. Hipkiss, D. Davies
B.Hutchinson, M.Hutchinson

Flower Rota

5th October Mrs E. Leese
12th October Mrs A West
19th October Mrs D Wilson
26th October Mrs D Pickles



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 Group	Jeanette Rowlands.....816713
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 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