

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 back page for details)

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Vicar Paul Kingman 812669

The Vicarage, Bromfield Court

Andy Cranston Curate 818983

1 Navigation Loop

Youth and Children's Kieran McKnight 600734

Worker

07731984755 **Electoral Roll Officer** Irene Gassor 814871

Parish Office Christ Church Centre, Christ Church Way, Stone, Staffs ST15 8ZB

office@christchurchstone.org Email

811990

815854

Deaconess (Retired) Ann Butler 818160

Readers Dave Bell 815775 **David Rowlands** 816713

Michael Thompson 813712 817987

Cecilia Wilding

Wardens Andy Stone

> **David Beauchamp** 286526

Deputy Wardens Phil Tunstall, 817028

CHRIST CHURCH CENTRE

Booking Secretary Kate or Irene (Office) 811990

CHURCH SCHOOLS

Music Co-ordinator

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

Pete Mason

Head: Mrs Lynne Croxall B.Ed.(Hons) 354125

Christ Church Academy, Old Road

Principal: Mr C. Wright MAEd 354047

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5	and People
6	Please get your
6	contributions for the October
7, 8	magazine to us
9	by 15th September
9	ii
10	Cover Picture:-
10	Stonefield Park
11	The magazine
12	The magazine costs 40p per
13	issue or £4 for a full year.
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Christ Church

Subscriptions

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

September 2013

Sun	1	9:15am 6:00pm	Communion Acts 17:16-34 "The Gospel in Athens" A Passion to Witness (1) "What is the Gospel?"
Mon	2		
Tue	3	10:00am	Coffee before midweek service; service at 10:30
Wed	4		
Thu	5		
Fri	6	6:00pm	Wedding rehearsal - Ross Irvine and Kirsty Ridge
Sat	7	8:30am 4:00pm	Prayer meeting followed by breakfast Wedding - Ross Irvine and Kirsty Ridge
Sun	8	9:15am 6:00pm	Morning Prayer Genesis 3 "The fall and the hope" A Passion for Witness (2) "Why should we share the Gospel?"
Mon	9	6:30pm	Breathe yrs 5-8
Tue	10	9:30am 10:00am 12:30pm 7:00pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before midweek service; service at 10:30 Seekers Club Youth Club yrs 9-12
Wed	11	6:00pm 7:30pm	KingZone yrs 2-4 Standing Committee
Thu	12		
Fri	13		
Sat	14		
Sun	15	9:15am 6:00pm	Communion Genesis 12 "God builds a nation via Abraham" A Passion for Witness (3) "Why don't we share the Gospel?"

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Mon	16	6:30pm	Breathe yrs 5-8
Tue	17	9:30am 10:00am 12:30pm 7:00pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before midweek service; service at 10:30 Seekers Club Youth Club yrs 9-12
Wed	18	4:00pm 6:00pm	Christ Church Academy - TLC meeting KingZone yrs 2-4
Thu	19	?	Bakers - Update on move to Senegal
Fri	20	7:30pm	Concert - Adam Baker and the Royal Foundlings
Sat	21		
Sun	22	9:15am 6:00pm	Morning Prayer Genesis 37 "Joseph the dreamer?" A Passion to Witness (4) "How to pray when sharing the Gospel"
Mon	23	6:30pm	Breathe yrs 5-8
Tue	24	9:30am 10:00am 12:30pm 6:00pm 7:00pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before midweek service; service at 10:30 Seekers Club CCA Governors' meeting Youth Club yrs 9-12
Wed	25	6:00pm 7:30pm	KingZone yrs 2-4 PCC meeting
Thu	26		
Fri	27	8:00pm	Moddershall Harvest service
Sat	28	5:00pm	United benefice Harvest Supper at Christ Church
Sun	29	9:15am 6:00pm	Family service - Harvest Exodus 3 "Moses meets I AM" A Passion to Witness (5) "How to tell a story"
Mon	30	6:30pm	Breathe yrs 5-8

Fairtrade goods will be on sale after the service on September 29th

"Well, that's that," someone might be heard to say as they disembark from an aeroplane. The clink of the duty free bottles, a rolled up magazine, a glowing complexion and sandaled feet are some of the distinguishing marks of the globetrotter. The time away has come to an end. It's time to get back to the usual run of things, which apparently has restarted, if it ever stopped in the first place.

We generally think that a holiday is good for us: to get away from it all and recharge our batteries. But it's over all too soon. Perhaps some even plan their next break as they drive back home?

The idea of refreshment appeals to something deep within us. The rigours of everyday life lead to the need to rest and recuperate. Yet, our need and desire for restoration is a pointer to a genuine spiritual reality. Our souls need to be refreshed. Certainly a great holiday contributes to a sense of well-being, but it cannot deal with the deeper issues.

There is an old prayer that helps us to express our thanks to God and so discover spiritual refreshment. One line runs: 'we bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ, for the means of grace and the hope of glory' [from *A General Thanksgiving*, *The Book of Common Prayer*]. The prayer helps us to reflect on God's goodness and to lead a life that expresses thankfulness in what we say and do. The apostle Paul exhorts us along similar lines: 'Therefore, I urge you brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship' (Romans 12v1). It is critical to learn about the mercy God has shown towards us in the sending of Jesus Christ if we want to be reconciled to God.

If you have a deep longing for refreshment, then how about taking action

in this new church and school year? Come and explore how refreshment for our souls is found in relationship with God. As we embark on a special helicopter ride in our Sunday sermon series to track with us 'The Story', there is a great opportunity to discover God's big plan for the restoration of the world. You can be part of it! Come and see.



The beginning of the Story

I was 16 when the James Bond film "Golden Eye" came out but it was a number of weeks before I had the chance to see it in the cinema. In that time several friends whetted my appetite by telling me about the drama and bungee jump that the film opens with. Well, as soon as we could, my brother and I booked some tickets and headed off for an evening's entertainment, but out of shear complacency we misjudged how long it would take us to get there and ended up arriving 3 minutes late. We had missed not only the bungee jump but the opening scene which was to prove critical to the unravelling of the plot. I couldn't believe it! Nevertheless it wasn't too long before we went again, making sure we got there in time to see for ourselves what all the fuss had been about!

This September in the 3 churches in the benefice we're going to be starting a hop, skip and a jump through the whole Bible that will take us through to May 2014. It will be *hold on to your seatbelts stuff*, but the aim is to provide us with a deeper understanding of how all the stories of the Bible fit into an over-riding narrative about God and his relationship with people. And central to our understanding is the beginning.

The first 11 chapters of Genesis show us what the world was made to be like and why it isn't such a perfect paradise today. They show us how God made us to be in relationship with himself, but that starting with Adam and Eve we've inherited a condition called sin. Effectively saying "Shove off God, I'm in control, No to your commands." They show us how God started again with the best man he could find – Noah, but that even Noah wasn't all that hot when it came to valuing his relationship with God. The final act of this beginning scene sees people trying to build a tower to God – aiming to make a name for themselves as opposed to building a relationship with God and cherishing him. As a result God executes his judgement by scattering them and confusing their common language.

The end of the opening scene of the Bible leaves us wondering if it will ever be possible for people to have an unimpeded relationship with God again...but for the answer you'll need to join us as we see the rest of the Story unfold!

And I hope you will as we trace through this most exciting of stories and see not only how God provides a solution to the problem but also how He has an important role for each one of us to play – if only we'd be willing!

Don't let sheer complacency be your reason for missing out – we begin on Sunday 8th September! *Andy*

⁶ Royal Foundlings + Adam Baker – Back to School Bash

We are excited to announce that on Friday September 20th the Royal Foundlings and Adam Baker will be performing in concert! The concert will begin at 7.30 and tickets are £3 for under 18s and £5 for adults. It would be great to see lots of you there!

To hear either Adam or the Royal Foundlings check out their youtube channels.

If you feel that you would be able to help out at the concert by stewarding, collecting tickets or running the tuck shop then let me know.

Kieran

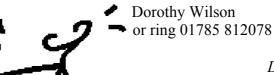
Staffordshire Historic Churches Trust

Sponsored Cycle Ride and Walk

A day to visit many churches which are usually closed Saturday 14th September 2013

It's that time again! This is a chance to ride round the local countryside to visit a few of the churches. Collect a few, or better still, a lot of people to sponsor your ride. If you would rather walk, the numerous churches in Stafford make a good route. Half your sponsor money is returned for use in our parish. If you are more the sedentary type, offer to spend an hour in the Centre to receive visiting cyclists. Christ Church open 10-1.00 p.m.

For more information and forms, see



Dorothy

'If at first you don't succeed, then maybe failure is your thing.'

Quentin Crisp's quip highlights how success and failure can often be parodied as separate and distinct from one another: Some people are natural winners and others are losers and never the twain shall meet. However, the reality is not so simplistic.

This year we are celebrating the 70th anniversary of the achievements of Barnes Wallis, the inventor of the 'Dambuster' bouncing bombs. Those bouncing bombs, that destroyed dams and flooded factories, severely damaged the Nazi war effort. His achievement was a huge step in helping the Allied Forces to win the war and bring peace to Europe. However, Barnes had many failures before he got his invention right. Government officials became extremely disappointed in his progress and very nearly gave up on him. But Barnes Wallis held to his vision and persevered. He never gave up.

This July, Jimmy Anderson, the England Test cricketer, was hailed as 'the best bowler in the world' by Wasim Akram, himself a onetime master of the art of fast swing bowling. In the 2010/11 Test series, Anderson ripped the heart out of the Aussie batting order to help England retain the Ashes. In the first two test matches this summer his supreme bowling helped put England 2-0 up in the Ashes contest. Back in the 2006/7 Ashes tour of Australia, however, James Anderson bowled 'rubbish', according to some commentators. The Australian batsmen tucked into his bowling as though at a mouth-watering buffet. They helped themselves to hundreds of runs. He was humiliated. But James Anderson went away, worked hard on his action, attitude, fitness and technique. He came back stronger. He never gave up.

People who achieve success are not usually people who have gilded, carefree lives, immune from trouble. They tend to know all about failure. Not for them the gospel of Homer Simpson: 'You tried your best; you failed miserably. The lesson is... never try.' No; they do not allow failure to defeat them. They get knocked down but they then get up again. They feel the pain and humiliation of the event and they allow it to inform their next step. As Colin Powell, the former US Defence Secretary said: 'There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work and learning from failure.'

(continued on next page)

By any standards, the Church of God is one of the most successful organisations of all but it began in weakness. Over two thousand years ago, a country rabbi and a bunch of fishermen started this movement and now it has grown to over two billion world —wide today. Interestingly, Jesus, when he returned to his Father, did not choose the brightest, sharpest disciple with the strongest character to be the leader of the movement. He chose Peter; someone who is best known for being a failure and a deserter — a very human man who found that following Jesus was almost impossibly difficult. A crumbly character, but Jesus must have seen something in Peter that would finally, after many failures, become firm and constant, like rock. Peter learnt from failure. He never gave up.

For a faith that has at its heart a crucified and risen God, failure and success go hand in hand. They are part of the rhythm of Christian life. It may not be so easy to judge the effectiveness of Christian mission in the same way as bouncing bombs and good bowling. However, we can rightly celebrate the good caused by several key institutions in this country - the Judiciary, Education and Hospitals all have their foundations in the Christian faith. Here in Lichfield Diocese, we know that Christians are having a huge impact in the community through volunteering, setting up and serving in Food banks, as Street Pastors and in facilitating debt counselling and Credit Unions. I visit many churches that are reaching new generations of people with the good news via Messy Church and discipleship courses and who make a difference in their community through involvement in social action programmes.

At the same time, we are more than aware that, whilst 40% of our churches are growing numerically, the reality is that 60% are declining (the reasons are not always straight forward: Jimmy Anderson bowled beautifully on the first day of the Third Test at Old Trafford and yet got no wickets!). Many of us struggle with failure and recognise we are in need of renewal. I believe we need to learn to live with either success or failure, trusting that God is faithful. He delivers. When we get knocked down, he is ready and able to lift us up again.

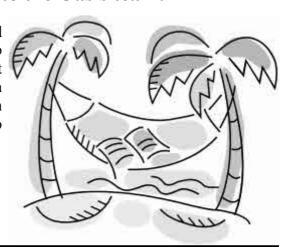
The Rt Revd Mark Rylands
Bishop of Shrewsbury

Each autumn we run a course called 'One Life: what's it all about?' – *Christianity Explored*. This is on Sunday evenings from October. It's a discipleship course that is suitable for those who want to discover more about knowing God, good preparation for those considering confirmation, but also helpful for people who want to brush up on the basics. Details are on information leaflets in each church in our benefice. More in the magazine next month.

Further details can be found on the website www.christianityexplored.org

Thanks to the Oasis team!

Thank you to all who helped to run the Oasis summer club for retired people at the start of August. It was a team effort. It was very much enjoyed by those who attended.



John Stott said:-

Apathy is the acceptance of the unacceptable

We should not ask, "What is wrong with the world?", for that diagnosis has already been given. Rather, we should ask, "What has happened to the salt and light?"

Good conduct arises out of good doctrine

For over a year now we've been getting together on Sunday afternoons in Christ Church Centre for cake, craft, stories and songs and most of all lots of fun! Starting at 4pm and finishing by 5pm, we are currently working our way through **the Jesus Storybook Bible** which shows how every story in the Bible whispers Jesus' name! This term we're moving into the New Testament as we begin to see how Jesus fulfils the Old Testament whisperings!

The dates for this term are:

15 September – Get Ready

6 October – He's here!

20 October – *The light of the whole world*

3 November – *The King of all kings*

1 December – Let's go!

15 December – A little girl and a poor frail lady

We love welcoming new comers so we do hope you can join us! For more information contact Andy Cranston on 818983 or acranston.ccstone@gmail.com

A Passion to Witness

Were you struck by these words last summer term: 'Always be prepared to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect...' (I Peter 3v15)? As I look forwards to the opportunities for March 2014 as we link up with the national initiative 'A Passion for Life' I've thought about how it is possible to bring the good news of Jesus to a group, or section of the community, who are not represented in our churches.

So, on Sunday evenings during September (and December) we have a short course to help equip us to be a better witness for Christ. 'A Passion to Witness' is a DVD based course that provides training for the Church, as we seek to not just be people who bring friends to events, but those who are personal witnesses of the Lord Jesus.

The resource consists of nine 15–20 minute sessions addressing different aspects of our witness and evangelism, each presented by a different speaker, and is interspersed with questions for small group discussion, reflection and application.

I hope that congregation members will benefit from attending this course and that we will learn together.

Paul

The P.C.C. met on 10th July 2013 and the following matters were reported:

- The heating system has been serviced and some faults highlighted which require attention. Investigations are underway to ascertain whether the system should be repaired or whether replacement would be more cost effective.
- We will be running a new course during the Sunday services which is an overview of the bible based on material "The Story". It will run from September to May with resources for all ages. This will mean that the Sunday School group teaching will be linked with the teaching in the church services.
- · Arrangements are being made to run a Christianity Explored course in the Autumn.
- Mircea Postean and other Romanian pastors are in Liverpool for a week in October and plan to be with us on Wednesday, 23rd October 2013. An evening will be held on 23rd October including a bring and share tea.
- The youth groups have been well supported with many young people asking questions. Unfortunately the Lighthouse group had to be closed during the last term. A new youth group for children in school Years 3 5 will be starting in September details will follow
- · Help is being sought to set up a cleaning team for the church centre. User groups are being asked ensure they check all areas of the premises before they leave.

The next P.C.C meeting is on Wednesday 25th September 2013 at 7.30pm. *Shelagh*

Kate Lee wrote to us recently

Another year has flown by and we have now been back in the UK for four years!! When we arrived Grace had just started nursery and James and Rebekah were in juniors. Now Grace has just finished infants and will be in juniors in September and Rebekah and James are settled into secondary school. I have had five different teaching appointments in that time and have now finally secured a permanent teaching post near Cambridge teaching nursery age children which I love. Tim continuously works tirelessly for Jigsaw Philippines and also runs the UK charity that supports Jigsaw.

We would love to come and share with you all just what has been happening in the Philippines through your support and prayers. For us church visits are wonderful encouraging and empowering times and we always come away feeling refreshed and renewed. Jigsaw works because of our church partnerships and without you Jigsaw would not be what it is. Please let us know which dates you would like us to visit your church. We can visit any Sunday or even midweek so let us know what works best.

CMS continues to be behind Tim and the work of Jigsaw and we are so grateful for the wonderful support and prayers you have given us and Jigsaw for many years. Tim's very important role in the development and work of Jigsaw is ongoing and we would like to ask for the support of your church for a further year for Tim through CMS after which time in (May) 2014 CMS and Jigsaw will review the work and situation. God is developing Jigsaw in amazing and pioneering ways for his most needy children and we stand in awesome wonder at the work of his hand. We are learning so much through the development of Jigsaw and usually, just when we think we have it all sorted God turns it on its head and we have to rethink what we are doing only to discover just how much better God's ways are. Thank you so much for Journeying with us as we seek to share God's redeeming love with children and families in such need. Many lives are being changed and Faith, Hope and Love are growing in abundance

Once again thank you so much for your wonderful and prayers for this vital ministry. We look forward to visiting you all very soon.

God bless Tim, Kate, Rebekah, James and Grace

Tearfund is a Christian international aid and development agency, working globally to end poverty and injustice and to restore dignity and hope in some of the world's poorest communities. Its core belief is that aid must be given regardless of race, religion, nationality or gender. It should never be used to further a particular political or religious standpoint. Tearfund operates in over 50 countries (including UK and Ireland). It is present in **disaster** situations - and recovery via response teams. It also speaks out on the national and international stage, by petitioning governments, **campaigning** for justice and raising the profile of key poverty issues when the opportunity arises. On **development** issues, Tearfund works through local churches and church-based partner organisations.

These are examples of Tearfund's work at the moment.

Disasters

It is working to help Syrian refugees in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria itself. Partner Hope International in Jordan is working with refugee children to help them recover from the traumas of war.

Partners are helping flood survivors in N India -2,700 families have received aid so far.

Campaigning

The G8 Summit in N Ireland this summer was an ideal opportunity to highlight hunger (1 in 8 people go to bed hungry). Tearfund was part of the IF Campaign (*Enough Food for Everyone* IF). The leaders listened – the agenda and commitments included many things called for by the IF campaign – we pray it will be the start of the end of hunger.

This summer, there has also been a successful conclusion to the *Unearth the Truth* campaign. The European Parliament has passed a law that European countries must publish what they pay governments to access their natural resources. This should have a positive benefit for people in developing countries.

Development

Bangladesh is a country increasingly affected by natural disasters. The country was battered by Cyclone Mahasen in May. It received little publicity because it was far less destructive, due to the country's disaster reduction preparation scheme. Local volunteers (mostly young people) used the skills they had been trained for to save lives and protect the vulnerable. *(continued over page)*

In Ethiopia, partner Kale Haywet Church have set up a network of self-help groups. Parents in 12,000 groups are now able to send their children to school – a million lives have been transformed.

At Christ Church, we donate to the general work of Tearfund at Harvest, which will help to fund campaigning and development projects such as those described. We also donate via Tearfund in disaster situations such as the Syria Appeal in May. We can be sure our donations go to where there is greatest need; Tearfund usually have partners already working in the country.

You can pray about Tearfund's work by visiting the *One Voice* section of the website (www.tearfund.org/praying). Leading prayer concerns are also on the Mission Noticeboard and in the Mission News and Prayer Diary section of the magazine each month.

Sheila

An Adventure to the Frozen North...

Tom Woodhead and Marcus King

Okay, I'll admit that the title might be slightly misleading. Yes, we are about to embark on an adventure that we have been discussing excitedly for the past twelve months. But fortunately it won't require us to contend with quite so many polar bears as a trip to the North Pole might entail. But in many ways, what God has got planned for us is equally exciting.

For the benefit of those of you who do not know us, Marcus and I have been members of Christ Church for a number of years now, during which time we have often been seen making fools of ourselves at the annual Children's Holiday Club as part of the drama team. And even though in recent years, a lot of our time has been spent away from Stone at separate universities (Marcus has been in York reading Archaeology, while I've been studying Physics in Nottingham), we have taken every opportunity to return to Christ Church with an aim to help out with the fantastic work that the church is doing here. However, now that we have both graduated from university, we have been given an exciting opportunity to explore a calling that both of us have had a growing interest in over the years: local church ministry. (continued on next page)

We've each been invited to become Apprentices in an evangelical church called the People's Mission in South Shields (near "sunny" Newcastleupon-Tyne). This church, led by former Christ Church youth minister Adam Rushton, is running this training scheme for the first time this year as part of their commitment to train and release new workers for Christian ministry. Over the next two years we'll be receiving a thorough training in theology, led by Rev. Dr. Paul Blackham. But we won't just be doing lots of reading and writing; we'll have the opportunity to put into practice what we've learned by actively serving in the church family. This will include getting involved with the church's existing activities, as well as having a role in pioneering new ministries in the community. On our recent visits to the area we saw how much potential there is to expand into new areas, especially with regards to working with young people. As we serve in the church's mission to take the Gospel to South Shields, we'll each be able to grow in our relationship with God and develop the gifts He's given us for the work of His Kingdom.

We are both extremely excited about the time we are going to spend as apprentices in South Shields, and while we are sorry to be finally leaving Christ Church, we are confident that our time at the People's Mission will be an extremely valuable and fruitful experience. We just can't help but wonder how long it will be before we're asked to don silly costumes and Marcus is once again standing in front of forty children with his feet in a bowl of mushy peas...

Tom Woodhead

If you'd like to find out more about what we're doing, or are interested in receiving our regular prayer letters, feel free to contact us:

THOMAS: tom.woodhead@hotmail.com 07784951046 MARCUS: kingmarcus92@googlemail.com 07557056843

Christ Church on the Internet

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

REGISTERS AND ROTAS

SIDESPERSONS ROTA

AM

1st Sept D. Shemilt D. Pickles

G. Lugg D. Wilson

8th Sept V. Ledward P. Roberts

D. Shemilt K. McKnight

15th Sept C. Wilding G. Holden K. Woodward J. Abrahams

K. Woodward J. Abranam

22nd Sept P. Hipkiss G. Lugg

D. Davies K. Thompson

FLOWER ROTA

1st Sept Mrs S Hawley 8th Sept Mrs E Cook 15th Sept Mrs S Hallam

22nd Sept Harvest

29th Sept

29th Sept Flower Guild

ROADS FOR PRAYER

1st SeptemberKent Grove

Meaford Avenue
Mount Avenue

Mount Crescent

22nd September

Alma Street Bromfield Court Dominic Court Granville Terrace

King's Avenue

8th September

Mount Road Mount Street Old Road

Stonefield Court

29th September

Longton Road Margaret Street Newcastle Road

Newcastle Street





15th September Stonefield Square Victor Street Victoria Street Whitebridge Lane



Deanery Synod Reps Mrs S Hallam, Mr R. Brandon, Mr D. Rowlands

P.C.C. Members Mrs I. Gassor, Mr G. Donaldson

Mrs K. Latham, Mr P. Mason, Mrs D. Hazlehurst

Mrs A. Burton, Mrs M. Hillman, Mr K. Reynolds, Mrs E. Woodhead

Mrs S. Sanders

Secretary Shelagh Sanders

Treasurer Kevin Reynolds 850135

Envelopes, Gift Aid Richard Latos

GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

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

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