Chris Parish Magazine of Christ Church Stone

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 15 for details)

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Vicar Paul Kingman 812669

The Vicarage, Bromfield Court

Curate Andy Cranston 818983

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Youth and Children's Kieran McKnight 600734

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Readers Dave Bell 815775
David Rowlands 816713

David Rowlands 816713
Michael Thompson 813712
Cecilia Wilding 817987

Music Co-ordinator Pete Mason 815854

Wardens Andy Stone

David Beauchamp 286526

Deputy Wardens Phil Tunstall, 817028

CHRIST CHURCH CENTRE

Booking Secretary Kate or Irene (Office) 811990

CHURCH SCHOOLS

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

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

Christ Church Academy, Old Road

Principal: Mr C. Wright MAEd 354047

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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

December 2013

Sun	1	9:15am 4:00pm 6:00pm	Communion Matthew 21:1-13 "The King is coming" Families at Four - Let's go! A Passion to Witness 6: "Using the Bible to share the gospel"
Mon	2	6:30pm	Breathe yrs 5-8
Tue	3	9:30am 10:00am 12:30pm 6:00pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before midweek service; service at 10:30 Seekers Club Stone & Eccleshall Guides Carol Service - refreshments in church Youth Club yrs 9-13
Wed	4	6:00pm	KingZone yrs 2-4
Thu	5		
Fri	6		
Sat	7	8:30am 6:00pm	Prayer meeting followed by breakfast Advent Evening, with meal
Sun	8	9:15am 6:00pm	Morning Prayer. Luke 21:25-33 "My words will last" A Passion to Witness 7 "How should we answer questions?"
Mon	9	6:30pm 6:30pm	Stone 1st Cubs/Scouts Carol service 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 9-13
Wed	11	6:00pm	KingZone yrs 2-4
Thu	12		
Fri	13		
Sat	14		

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Centre

Imagine a post-office queue in December. A customer finally reaches the front of the queue and asks for 50 stamps. The person serving asks: "Do you want the special Christmas nativity stamps?" The woman replied, "Oh no! I can't stand all that religion, it ruins Christmas!"

The above story was a real conversation. It's surprising to think that many do not know, or care, about the real meaning of Christmas. If you searched for a book on Christmas then where would you find it: in the fiction section with Winnie the Pooh and Scrooge? Or maybe in the marketing section because of the clever Cola Cola campaign in 1931 that portrayed Santa as a cheerful rotund man in a red suit? Somewhere along the line the story gets muddled up with trees, tinsel and turkeys!

The real Christmas centres on the birth of a baby boy. When you sing a line or two of the Christmas carols, then you begin to realize the enormity of the event. This child's birth wasn't just worthy of opening a bottle to celebrate his safe arrival, much to the relief of his proud parents. It also resulted in the songs of angels because of its worldwide significance for two reasons:

- 1. He came to carry out a rescue operation. His mother Mary was told by an angel of the Lord: 'She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins' (Matthew 1v21). Only Jesus would provide the way of forgiveness so that we can be reconciled to God. This is true for all who recognize what he alone did for us in his voluntary self-sacrifice. It is his work that we are to trust in as the only means of forgiveness for our sins. A true Christmas gift!
- 2. He came from heaven to earth: 'all this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: the virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him "Immanuel" which means, "God with us" (Matthew 1v22-23). Only Jesus could enable us to know God personally, because he came as God, living amongst us, in flesh and blood.

Christmas celebrates how Jesus offers us a fresh start with God and to know God personally. Have you discovered these amazing things? Whether you have or haven't we warmly invite you to take time for a rethink about Christmas.

Let's see how Jesus is at the heart of our celebrations.

Paul Kingman

Last Christmas one of the presents we received was a neatly bound autumn green A4 hardback book about an inch think. The cover was blank except for the spine which read 'Cranston, Bird, MacLellan Family Tree.' It was the product of several years work by my dad while I was a teenager and had only taken him 20 years to give me a copy! It makes for a fascinating read – a picture of my grandfather's cousin, Ken with Don Bradman at Old Trafford in 1948 for Lancashire v Australia (they were respective captains). The story of Robert Glover who was burnt at the stake in 1555 because of his protestant convictions. Then there was the boy who ran away from home to escape a cruel step-father and ended up running his own brickworks in Hanford. Dad even managed to trace back as far as the family of St Omer who are on the role of the persons of note who came over with William the Conqueror in 1066!

Lately, researching our roots and ancestors has been popularised by TV shows such as 'Who do you think you are?' and 'Finding your roots' and they make for compelling viewing. After all discovering stories about the lives of the people we're descended from fills us with intrigue and captivates our imaginations – and can also shed light (though perhaps at times unwontedly) on who we are!

It's for this reason that I find Matthew 1:1-17 such enthralling reading. It's not one we usually have in Church – for a start there aren't many members of the congregation who would be willing to do it. It's hard enough pronouncing some modern day names let alone a long list of Biblical ones!

But closer examination reveals some rather colourful characters to say the least! In v3 we read **Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar,** the story is found in Genesis 38 and would make the 'free love' generation of the 60's blush! Rahab (v5) before settling down with Salmon had an income that was based on how many men she 'saw' in a night! (Joshua 2:1). Manasseh, v10 sacrificed his own son in the fire and practiced sorcery and divination (2 Kings 21). It's a list that should really come with a warning sign attached - "Be warned the list you are about to read contains people whose stories you might find graphic, explicit and disturbing." And yet it was through these messed up people that God was working out his plan of salvation for you and me!

(continued)

It shows that no one is beyond redemption and being used by God. So go on! Don't just jump to the manger and the stable this Christmas – start at the beginning and thank God that even the most shameful 'skeletons in the cupboard' can't hinder his plans and purposes for us!

Andy

Christmas is about collapsing the barrier between God and ourselves

I am not a 'morning' person! I can stay up all night but once I have gone to bed I do not find it easy to get going again. Morning Prayers helps to revive me. I love praying:

'The night has passed, and the day lies open before us....As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you'

There is something about these words that speaks to me of the enormous potential that each day brings yet we have the reassurance that in all that lies ahead we are not alone for God is with us.

St John's Gospel sums up the meaning of Christmas for Christians: 'and the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory'. It is a two way thing – God becomes human and understands our lives from the 'inside' and at the same time, through Jesus we have the opportunity to glimpse something of the nature of God and how our lives might be if we truly allowed the teaching of Jesus to be our pattern for daily living. As Cardinal Avery Dulles wrote:

'The Incarnation does not provide us with a ladder whereby to escape the ambiguities of life and scale the heights of heaven, rather it enables us to burrow deep into the heart of the planet and find it shimmering with divinity'. The past year has brought a mixture of joy and challenge to us as individuals, as a nation and as part of the world community. This Christmas will be particularly difficult for those facing financial worries and yet wanting to give their family a 'good time'. But it costs nothing to be friendly to one another or to try to promote peace and understanding within our families and community. It costs nothing to remind ourselves of the story and meaning of that first Christmas and to think about how that story might still impact upon our own lives two thousand years later.

(continued on next page)

Christmas is about collapsing the barrier between God and ourselves. A God who chose to become human as a fragile baby born of young and inexperienced parents in a back street shed, and then to grow up surrounded by those whom others pushed to the margins of society and constantly challenging religiosity that put rules and regulations before the outpouring of God's love – this is a God who will not be easily offended by anything that we throw at him.

This is a God who understands us. This is a God who loves us. This is a God who is with us.

The best present we could give to someone is to help them understand the true meaning of Christmas. I commend The Real Advent Calendar which is available from TESCO and includes a copy of the Christmas Story behind the final window, but I also encourage you to share with family and friends what the Christmas Message means to you and remind them that at Christmas – time, when we receive presents we don't really need, God offers us a gift we cannot do without!

A very Happy and Blessed Christmas to you all!

The Rt Revd Geoff Annas

Families @4

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:

1 December – Let's go!

15 December – A little girl and a poor frail lady

We love welcoming newcomers so we do hope you can join us!

For more information contact Andy Cranston on 818983 or acranston.ccstone@gmail.com

Christmas Quiz

In the Christmas song, "Hav	ve yourself a m	erry little Chris	stmas", what
will be "out of sight"?			
A) Credit cards	B) Marbles	C) Bubbles	D) Troubles
According to the Christmas	song, what was	s the only prese	ent asked for?
A) Five bath cubes	B) Fo	our bars of soap	
A) Five bath cubes C) Three pairs of socks	D) Tv	wo front teeth	
What colour was Rudolph th	e Reindeer's n	ose?	
A) Blue B) Green	C) Orange	D) Red	
How many sides does a snov	vflake have?		
A) 12 B) 10 C) 8 D) 6			
In the carol "Away in a man	ger", what wa	s the little Lord	l Jesus asleep
on?			
A) The crib B) The bed	C) The floor	D) The hay	
At Christmas, it is customar	<u>y to exchange</u>	kisses beneath	a sprig of
which plant?			
A) Poinsetta B) Ivy C) Ho	olly D) M	istletoe	
Which of the following was n	ıot a gift from	the Magi?	
A) Frankincense B) My	yrrh C) Go	old D) D	iamonds
In the movie "Miracle on 3-	4 <u>th</u> Street", Kri	is Kringle is hi	red to play
Santa Claus in which depart	ment store?		
A) FAO Schwarz B) Ma	rshall Field's	C) Gimbles	D) Macy's
In the Christmas song, who	are getting fat?) -	
A) The neighbours C) The dogs	B) The turke	ys	
C) The dogs	D) The geese	•	
What was Joseph's job?			
A) Fisherman B) Farmer	C) Builder	D) Carpenter	
Who was Scrooge's dead bu			
A) Tiny Tim B) Bob Crate			
Electric Christmas tree light	s were first use	ed in which yea	<u>r?</u>
A) 1907 B) 1878	C) 1905	D) 1895	
When are the twelve days of	Christmas?		
A) Dec 21st to Jan 1st	B) Christmas	Eve to Jan 4th	Į.
C) Dec 14th to Dec 25th	D) Dec 26th	to Jan 6th	
Which of the following is NC	OT a real U.S. (City ot town?	
A) Noel, Missouri	B) St. Nichol	las, Florida	
C) Santa Claus, Georgia	D) Snowflak	e, Texas	

Dear friends of Jigsaw a brief update from Jigsaw Philippines,

We are relieved to say that all the staff and children in Jigsaw are safe from the recent typhoon and Jigsaw kids clubs and work is resuming this week, Manila felt the effects of the typhoon but was not badly hit by it. However so many families connected to Jigsaw originate from the areas worst hit and are seeking any kind of information about their loved ones. Two of the Jigsaw staff Gemma and Mary Rose have families that live in the worst affected areas and they are yet to hear any news at all from them. As I am sure you can understand they are going out of their minds with worry, Lendehl and Jeannette are helping them to do all they can to get some news and Jigsaw is surrounding them with their love. Please hold Gemma and Mary Rose in your prayers. A third member of Jigsaw 'Beth' has family in an island further from the centre of the typhoons main destruction but even then this island was terribly hit, she has heard her family are alive but have lost everything, please hold Beths family in your prayers too.

I spoke to both Jeannette and Lendehl over the weekend and I think the country is just numb with shock at the moment, whole towns have been destroyed.

Jeannette and I shared and we didn't really know what to say apart from 'why!' why do such evil and terrible things happen. Right now there are so many suffering loss on a scale and in a way that leaves us lost for words. So many children are left now without families and homes in so many places in the southern islands of the Philippines and the Viva Network in the Philippines, 'Philippines Children's Network' of which Jigsaw is a member is meeting to see how it could support the large humanitarian efforts in some small way focusing on children, Jigsaw is involved with this response.

We don't really know what to say or do as the scale of the suffering is so big and we are all so far from the centre points of need, so we ask that together we hold the Philippines in our hearts and in our prayer especially the main areas of destruction – Tacloban, Bohol and the surrounding areas.

Thank you for your ongoing prayers, support and love for Jigsaw. We will keep all of you updated as we receive news from Jigsaw.

Take care - Tim and all at Jigsaw

We warmly invite you to our Christmas services as we remember the first Christmas. Christmas is a time to celebrate God's amazing gift of His one and only Son. The angels declared: "I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord". Come and join our celebrations and discover the grace and truth of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is truly great news with big implications for the world.

Christ Church, Stone:

Sat 21st	Christingle service for children	4.00 p.m.
Sun 22 nd	Morning Service Carol Service	9.15 a.m. 5.00 p.m.
Tue 24 th	Advent window opening Late night Carols & Communion	11.00 a.m. 11.00 p.m.
Wed 25th	Christmas Day Communion	9.15 a.m.
Sun 29 th	Joint Service at Oulton	11.00 a.m.
Sun 5 th Jan	Joint Benefice Communion Service	11.00 a.m.

St John the Evangelist Church, Oulton:

Sun 22 nd	Carol Service	7.00 p.m.
Wed 25th	Christmas Day Communion	11.00 a.m.
Sun 29th	Joint Service	11.00 a.m
Sun 5 th Jan	Joint Service at Christ Church, Stone	11.00 a.m.

All Saints Church, Moddershall:

Sun 15 th Tue 24 th Wed 25 th Sun 29 th	Carol Service Late night Carols & Communion Service at Oulton Service at Oulton	6.00 p.m. 11.00 p.m. 11.00 a.m. 11.00 a.m.
Sun 5 th Jan	Joint Service at Christ Church, Stone	11.00 a.m.

These prayers are an ancient part of the Church's worship; they were sung at Evensong from 17th to 23rd of December as part of the preparation for Christmas. You might like to use them of part of your own prayers in the week before Christmas.

O WISDOM, mysterious Word of God, coming forth from the Father and filling all creation with your life-giving power: *Come and show us the way to truth*.

O LORD OF ISRAEL, ruler of your ancient people, you appeared to Moses in the burning bush and gave the law on Mount Sinai: *Come, and reach out your hand to save us.*

O FLOWER OF JESSE'S LINE, Son of David, you have been lifted up as a sign of peace, drawing all kings and peoples to stand silent in your presence: *Come quickly and help us we beseech you.*

O KEY OF DAVID, and sceptre of the house of Israel, you have opened to us the way of hope, and shut the door on the powers of evil: *Come and free us from our prisons of darkness*.

O MORNING STAR, radiance of the Father's love, you are the brightness that disperses the shadows of our hearts: *Come, cleanse and renew us in your glory*.

O KING OF THE NATIONS, you alone bring joy when you reign in our hearts, and you are the cornerstone of our lives: *Come and strengthen us, who were formed by you.*

O EMMANUEL, God with us, hope of the world, and Saviour of all: *Come and live in us, now and for ever*. Happy Advent! *Sally Vaughan (Taken from "Woven into Prayer" by Angela Ashwin)*



PHOTO (L-R)
Tom
Woodhead,
Eden, Adam,
Judah, Helen
Clare, Shiloh
Rushton,
Marcus King

Taken by Phil and Diana on a recent visit

You are probably aware by now that Eloise Kingman and Catherine Abrahams are off to Mombasa for a short time next year with the Stone Outward Division Guides' group. This is an exchange visit following the Mombasa Guides' visit to the Stone area three years ago. **Pastor Joshua** travelled with this Mombasa group.

While Pastor Joshua was here, Paul spoke to him about the African pastors' need for books and was able to get some books out to him. At that time, Paul enquired about the need for Bibles by people in Joshua's church and suggested that Christ Church might give a gift for Bibles in Kiswahili (the heart language of many in the Mombasa area) – possibly as a Christmas gift from Christ Church. The main languages in Kenya are Swahili and English but these are not well understood by the less educated people.

Joshua has recently replied to an e-mail query from Paul about the number of Bibles wanted and the cost. Number = 100, Cost = £6.50 each. Joshua wrote –'As a headquarter church, the Bibles will be very important during conferences which normally take place in April, August and December.'

So, what about giving a Bible for Christmas?

If you would like to, please put your gift in an envelope labelled 'Kiswahili Bibles' and place it in the collection plate, or give it in to the Office by Sunday 15th December 2013. Thank you.

(NB – We are not expecting to give money for the full 100 wanted)

Sundays after Christmas

Please note that we have two joint services during the post-Christmas period:

Sunday 29th Dec 2013:

11.00am Christmas praise at Oulton church

Sunday 5th January:

11.00 am Holy Communion at Christ Church, Stone

- with a bring and share meal to follow

(Christ Church main savouries;

Oulton with Moddershall desserts);

6.00pm A Passion to Witness continued

R	A	N	Y	N	S	L	Е	G	N	Α
D	E	Т	G	D	R	L	G	N	Ĭ	K
D	I	G	Ι	F	L	O	C	K	S	0
C	O	V	N	O	R	Y	В	D	K	Y
Е	Α	O	W	A	Н	D	R	R	S	R
D	L	L	T	R	M	E	A	O	I	Н
T	Y	Т	O	S	Н	Н	R	E	L	Е
О	Н	Y	T	P	N	C	Η	A	L	G
Е	A	G	Е	A	R	Т	A	I	L	R
L	O	Н	Ι	Ι	C	A	Н	В	Е	D
U	S	N	В	N	D	W	Y	A	W	A

From the first lines of the four carols the 22 words shown in CAPITAL letters are all hidden in the grid. Words may be forwards or backwards, up or down or diagonally, but always in a straight line. Letters can be used more than once. Then list the unused letters reading from left to right to find the last line of the first verse of which carol?

HARK the HERALD ANGELS sing GLORY to the new BORN KING

Once in ROYAL DAVID'S CITY STOOD a LOWLY CATTLE shed

WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED THEIR FLOCKS by NIGHT

AWAY in a MANGER no CRIB for a BED

Arthur

REGISTERS AND ROTAS

BAPTISM

27th October Rosie Jayne Frear

FUNERALS

23rd September John William Woodhead Age 73

SIDESPERSONS ROTA

AM1st December D Pickles **D** Davies G. Lugg K. Woodward 8th December J Rowlands D Wilson V. Ledward K. Thompson 15th December D Shemilt J Abrahams C. Wilding K. McKnight 22nd December P. Hipkiss P Roberts D. Davies K. Woodward 24th December A Stone D. Beauchamp 25th December K. Thompson G. Lugg D. Wilson V. Ledward



FLOWER ROTA

1st December	Flower Guild
8th December	Flower Guild
15th December	Flower Guild
22nd December	Flower Guild



QUIZ ANSWERS

If you had any answers other than (D), then you haven't really entered into the spirit of Christmas! You should watch more television!

Groups and Activities

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

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

ROADS FOR PRAYER

1st December8th December15th DecemberSaltersford RiseThe CrescentAlbert StreetRolt CloseKent GroveAlexandra StreetMillenium WayMillers GateArthur StreetCameron WharfHartley DriveBerkeley Street

22nd December 29th December

Chestnut Grove End of Granville Terrace
Edward Street Meaford Avenue
Field Terrace Mount Avenue
Field House Court Mount Crescent



Stone Advent Windows 2013

For the fourth year running a giant community Advent calendar is being unveiled day by day in Stone shop windows from 1st December to 24th. This year the theme is once again **Christmas Carols** and we have a record 19 partnerships between the shops and schools and other organisations in the community. The decorated windows will remain on display over the Christmas period until 2nd January.

On the back page is a map showing the location and date of each window opening. All windows will be opened at 11am.

Join us for a special Christmas Eve – Calendar Carol-singing Crawl! Starting at Lock Keeper's Cottage on Stafford Street at 9:30am come with us as we sing our way through the calendar and up the High Street. At 11am we will arrive at Christ Church in time for the opening of the final window after which mince pies and other refreshments will be served in Christ Church centre.

Calendar see page 17

Map see back cover, drawn by George Holden

Christ Church on the Internet

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

Date	Window	Organisation	Carol
1st	Costa	Beaver Scouts	First Noel
2nd	Dunoon Mugs	Dunoon Mugs	Royal David's city
3rd	All Seasons	CC First School	Silent Night
4th	Dezign Room	Dezign Room	Midnight Clear
5th	Lock Keepers	St Dom Primary	We three kings
6th	Donna Louise	St Dom Priory	Mary's boy child
7th	Stone Library	Walton Priory	Hark! The herald
8th	The Mill	Breathe	Joy to the world
9th	Shear Genius	WI	Good king W
10th	Follwells	Oulton Abbey	Bleak midwinter
11th	Mayfair's	Oulton First Sch	See him lying
12th	Footstep	Mumbles	Little donkey
13th	Katharine House	Manor Hillbillies	Away in a manger
14th	Birchill&Watson	Birchill&Watson	Candlelight carol
15th	The Swan	Oulton Guides	Little drummer boy
16th	Home and Colour	Alleyne's	Go tell it on the mt
17th	Burton Solicitors	Pirehill	O little town
18th	Baileys DIY	Christ Church Ac	Ding dong merrily
19th	Zeta	St Michael's F Sch	While shepherds
20th	Blue Room	Trinity Skills	I saw 3 ships
21st	Hair and Beauty	CC Families@4	Angels from
22nd	Royal Exchange	Signposts	Holly and ivy
23rd	Crazy Daisies	Oak Tree Farm	See amid the
24th	Christ Church	Christ Church	On Christmas night

