

Christ Church and People

Parish Magazine of
Christ Church Stone

40p



March 2014

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 18 for details)

THE PARISH TEAM

Vicar	Paul Kingman The Vicarage, Bromfield Court	812669
Curate	Andy Cranston 1 Navigation Loop	818983
Youth and Children's Worker	Kieran McKnight	600734 07731984755
Electoral Roll Officer	Irene Gassor	814871
Parish Office	Christ Church Centre, Christ Church Way, Stone, Staffs ST15 8ZB Email office@christchurchstone.org	811990
Deaconess (Retired)	Ann Butler	818160
Readers	Dave Bell David Rowlands Michael Thompson Cecilia Wilding	815775 816713 813712 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
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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 Academy, Old Road

Principal: Mr C. Wright MAEd	354047
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Christ Church



and People

Please get your contributions for the April magazine to us by the 15th March

Cover Picture:-
Library

The magazine costs 40p per issue or £4 for a full year.

Subscriptions

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

March 2014

Sat	1	8:30am 7:00pm	Prayer meeting followed by breakfast Phil & Arthur's Quiz Night
Sun	2	9:15am 4:00pm 6:00pm	Communion Esther 7 "Haman hanged" Families at 4 - "Filled Full" 9 a Day - "Goodness"
Mon	3	6:30pm 7:30pm	Breathe yrs 5-8 PCC meeting
Tue	4	9:30am 10:00am 12:30pm 7:00pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before midweek service: service at 10:30am Seekers Club Youth Club yrs 9-13
Wed	5	6:00pm 7:00pm	KingZone yrs 2-4 Lent series - meet at Costa Coffee
Thu	6	1:20pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	7		
Sat	8		
Sun	9	9:15am 6:00pm	Morning Prayer Neh 1:1-2:10 "Praying ahead of plans" 9 a Day - "Faithfulness"
Mon	10	6:30pm	Breathe yrs 5-8
Tue	11	9:30am 10:00am 12:30pm 7:00pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before midweek service: service at 10:30am Seekers Club Youth Club yrs 9-13
Wed	12	6:00pm 7:00pm	KingZone years 2-4 Lent series - meet at Costa Coffee
Thu	13	1:20pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	14		
Sat	15		

Fairtrade goods will be on sale after the service on March 23rd

Sun	16	9:15am 4:00pm 6:00pm	Communion. John 1:19-34 "The coming of the Lamb" Families at 4 - "Treasure Hunt" 9 a Day - "Gentleness"
Mon	17		
Tue	18	9:30am 10:00am 12:30pm 7:00pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before midweek service; service at 10:30am Seekers Club Youth Club yrs 9-13
Wed	19	6:00pm 7:00pm	KingZone years 2-4 Lent series - meet at Costa Coffee
Thu	20	1:20pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	21		
Sat	22		
Sun	23	9:15am 6:30pm	Family service John 2:1-11 "Jesus' ministry of grace" A Passion for Life, Stoke City FC
Mon	24	6:30pm	Breathe yrs 5-8
Tue	25	9:30am 10:00am 12:30pm 6:00pm 7:00pm	Christ Church First School assembly Coffee before midweek service; service at 10:30am Seekers Club Christ Church Academy Governors' meeting Youth Club yrs 9-13
Wed	26	6:00pm 7:00pm	KingZone years 2-4 Lent series - meet at Costa Coffee
Thu	27	1:20pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	28		
Sat	29		
Sun	30	9:15am 6:00pm	Family service (Mothering Sunday) John 4:43-54 "Taking Jesus at his word" Good News: 3-2-1
Mon	31	6:30pm	Breathe yrs 5-8

Forgiveness: rare, but revolutionary

There is a big difference between forbearance and forgiveness. We speak of bearing with other people, not simply when someone is looking up details and we are hanging on for an answer. Forbearance takes great patience in order to put up with someone's foibles. If in doubt, just ask my wife! Forgiveness involves dealing with the wrong in a merciful way, granting a pardon, so as to achieve reconciliation. When we forgive it will lead to restoring the relationship. When we don't forgive it leads to an erosion of the relationship and ultimately a cycle of alienation can set in.

Various novels look at this theme. One tells of how a marriage disintegrates over the failure of the wife to replace soap in the bathroom. In the husband's mind this was a very big issue. His wife refused to admit that she forgot to replace it. Neither would ask for forgiveness, so they slept in separate bedrooms for seven months and ate in silence!

The daily and worldwide need for forgiveness means that where forgiveness is practiced it introduces a revolutionary change into hostile situations. Where forgiveness is withheld there will be a real alienation, with a growing bitterness that hangs over as a legacy of the past.

Jesus told a story about a servant who owed a huge fortune to his master. The master confronted the servant asking to be repaid or else be thrown in jail. The servant pleaded for mercy to be let off the debt. The master agreed to free him from his debt. Later the servant met a colleague who owed him a very small sum of money. He was aggressive in asking to be repaid. The colleague said he wasn't able to pay and asked to be let off. The servant refused and got him thrown in jail until he paid up. When news got back to the master he was furious and tore him off a strip before throwing him in jail to be tortured. Jesus said: *"this is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart"* (Mt 18v35).

Followers of Jesus are those who have come to know the forgiveness that reconciles us to God: the biggest debt of all has been cancelled. It makes giving and receiving forgiveness possible and also revolutionary.

Come and hear more at our special event on Sunday 23rd March as we listen to two speakers tackle the topic: 'Is forgiveness possible?' See details in the magazine or church website.

Paul Kingman



How strong are your roots?

During a lull in the recent stormy weather I took a stroll around Downs Banks, picking my way through the carnage of broken branches and uprooted trees. It was an impressive sight, trees that only days before had stood proud and majestic now lying crumpled and flattened never to rise again.

The prophet Jeremiah, who prophesied during a particularly stormy period of Israel's history, likened the locus of our trust to the locus of a tree's roots. In Jeremiah 17:5-8 he says:

⁵ This is what the LORD says:

“Cursed is the one who trusts in man,

who draws strength from mere flesh and whose heart turns away from the LORD.

⁶ That person will be like a bush in the wastelands; they will not see prosperity when it comes.

They will dwell in the parched places of the desert, in a salt land where no one lives.

⁷ “But blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him.

⁸ They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream.

It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green.

It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit.”

My stroll around Downs Banks showed that while seeds had taken root and flourished for many years, the soil and their root structure were unable to cope when the storm blew in. Likewise if we are to cope with the storms that life brings we need to send roots down into soil that will sustain and nourish us even through the most testing of times.

As Jesus heads out into the desert to do battle with the devil in the period that we call Lent, it's clear that his roots were nourished and strengthened by the soil of God's Word. Three times he refutes the devil by quoting the Scriptures the first of which reminds us that *“man does not live by bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.”*

You may be flourishing at the moment but where will you be when the storm blows in? Are your roots and the soil in which they are located equipped for it?

Andy Cranston

6 “How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity!” (Psalm 133)

These words *in the original Hebrew* finish the wonderful piece of music commissioned by the very English dean of Chichester Cathedral from a notable Jewish American composer in 1965. Leonard Bernstein was asked to write for a most traditional setting where the choir, expert in worshipping with plainchant and traditional hymns were open to adopting the latest musical style from Broadway.

We don’t get to commission great composers very often but we do get to commission people who are “the right person, at the right place, at the right time”.

Back in January, a great crowd of people from *Tamworth’s* many different churches joined together with the local MP, Mayor and others to celebrate the projects that ‘God’s people living together in unity’ operate together which provide such important service to the local community – helping those with addictions; a foodbank; a school for those who are unable to fit in a mainstream school; a housing project for young people; and debt and money advice. We saw three central values of our faith being lived out here that as a diocese we summarise as reaching new generations, transforming communities and practising generosity.

I was privileged to commission the newly formed Tamworth Street Angels who, *like similar groups around the country*, give up their sleep to show Jesus’ love to clubbers and revellers in the town centre. *Street Angels began as a project of Churches Together in Halifax, and its founder, Paul Blakey MBE was our preacher.* One hundred and twenty Street Angel projects are now running around the country and have been lauded by police forces and councils for having a large, measurable, positive impact on communities. In fact, just as the Psalmist says, they are helping people to live together even at the end of an evening of excess, disappointment or trouble.

We’re beginning the season of ‘giving up’ things – a tradition of Lent. So what to give up? For us Christians, it is about self-denial, yes, and making time for deeper prayer and repentance too.

But Lent isn’t simply about giving up something for a while, just to start it again when Easter arrives. We certainly shouldn’t be giving up good service to our neighbours, though we may wish to postpone excessive meetings about that work. *(continued on next page)*

An Evening with Phil and Arthur

Saturday 1st March at 7pm in the Centre

Something for Everyone

Sale of plants and pots of spring bulbs

Have a guess at some games – 50p a go
with great prizes to be won

Be part of a team in a light-hearted quiz

Refreshments

Proceeds to the Church general fund

Tickets £2 from Phil or Arthur, or from Irene and Kate in
the office

How good and pleasant! *(cont)*

We certainly don't give up meeting together to worship and study *God's Word*. Repentance is about 'doing sorry' – turning away from wrong (sin) and in Lent we can take extra time to think about whether we're living as God would have us live – or, as the first of our themes puts it, discovering the heart of God.

We have a fifth theme in this diocese, and my Lent Appeal for this year addresses that: your donations will be split three ways, helping partners in Asia and Africa who share our passion for growing disciples. And in a way, the UK beneficiary, Churches For All, is about helping churches to become more welcoming and encouraging those with disability so that that group in our society can also grow as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Jonathan Gledhill, Bishop of Lichfield

Fundraising for Stone Outward Division Guides to Mombasa in October

Catherine Abrahams is raising money for her trip to Mombasa, where she will be helping a project in Kididima that will see the building of a toilet block, community hall, health centre and playground. Help her by dining with the Abrahams family at their house or at The Crown of India. For evening meals Catherine suggests you might pay £15, for Strawberry Teas £2 - but you are welcome to make a larger contribution.

Speak to Catherine or Jacqueline for details

Families @4

Families@4 is a twice monthly Sunday afternoon service in Christ Church Centre with 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'll continue to see how Jesus fulfils the Old Testament whisperings and prophecies about God's desire to rescue his people!

The dates for this term are:

- 2 Mar** – *Filled full!*
- 16 Mar** – *Treasure hunt!*
- 6 April** – *The friend of little children*

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

JDRF and the London Marathon

At this time of year when there are lots of requests for sponsorship of the London Marathon, I would like to draw your attention to a less publicised charity – The Junior Diabetes Research Foundation. I have a special interest in this charity as my grandson Oliver was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes four years ago at the age of two and a half.

This year, my daughter in law Katherine will be running the London Marathon despite being a full time member of the teaching profession in a city comprehensive school.

We all hope that research will bring a break-through in treatment and a cure for diabetes so that Oliver and children like him can attain all the goals they have in life. Please consider sponsoring her-I shall be around with a form or you can use the online method

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/KatherineWilsonJDRF>

Dorothy Wilson

In 2012 sales of fairtrade goods in the UK rose to £1.5 billion, an 18% increase on 2011.

What is Fairtrade?

It aims to transform the lives of poor producers in the developing world by enabling them to use their skills to trade their way out of poverty. It also seeks to challenge injustices in trading structures and practices that often lead to the exploitation and marginalisation of poor people.

Key Elements

To create opportunities for poor producers

To ensure trading practices are fair – both in payment and prices

To ensure children are not being exploited

To ensure there is no discrimination

To ensuring working conditions are safe.

What is the Fairtrade Premium?

This is money paid on top of the minimum price that is invested in social, environmental and economic developmental projects. How the premium is spent is decided democratically by a committee of producers or workers on a plantation.

Lihogosa Primary School in Tanzania is near the Kibena tea factory, which supplies our fairtrade tea. The school was built using the fairtrade premium. It also paid for six out of the seven teachers' houses. The school, which has 175 pupils, has benefited from teaching materials, a photocopier, printer and furniture - all funded by the premium.

Our fairtrade goods are supplied by Traidcraft – UK's leading fair-trade company which was established in 1979. Mags Vaughan (Roger and Sally's daughter) was appointed as the new chief executive in July 2013. She says 'It is a great privilege to be the first female chief executive of an organisation that does so much to help women around the world.'

Swajan is an example of a company helping women. It combines two of Bangladesh's famous traditions (papermaking and embroidery), to create the beautifully decorated handmade paper cards which we buy. 850 women, from both rural and urban areas, are employed to do the embroidery. When her husband lost his job, Rumi started to look for work and she approached Swajan. After a short training course she was employed and has worked for the business for three years. *(continued)*

‘ I feel happy and secure working at Swajan. My husband has been able to get a loan to start a small shop. Now I am thinking of sending my 4 year old daughter to school.’

Fairtrade Fortnight is from **24th February** to **March 9th**. The Fairtrade Foundation is focusing on the plight of banana farmers. UK supermarkets have halved the price of bananas (UK’s favourite fruit) whereas farmers costs have doubled, trapping them in poverty.

***Cheap bananas threaten farmers future,
Make a difference in Fairtrade Fortnight.
Sign our petition.
Together we can make bananas fair.***

At the moment 33% of bananas sold are fairtrade – the campaign hopes to increase that percentage.

(To sign go to www.fairtrade.org.uk - Get involved - Fairtrade Fortnight.)

The next fairtrade stall is on 23rd March – look out for the Real Easter Egg – the only chocolate eggs to tell the Easter story.

Sheila Hawley

Keeping up with *The Story* in 2014

The Sunday sermons continue to tackle various chapters illustrative of what is being covered in in ‘*The Story*’. This book is written like a novel with various Bible passages and summaries of events to help us grasp the big picture or the the story of salvation – God’s dealings with humanity from Genesis to Revelation.

If you’ve not started, or are lagging behind, then join in with the following schedule below. Happy reading!

Sunday	Book Chapter
Mar 2 nd	20 The Queen of beauty and courage
Mar 9 th	21 Rebuilding the walls
Mar 16 th	22 The birth of the king
Mar 23 rd	23 Jesus’ ministry begins
Mar 30 th	24 No ordinary man

Who is Croatia?

There's a Balkan saying that translates as "Stretch your legs as far as your carpet extends". ECM Trustee Mike Wilson and his wife Daveen recently visited there and came back saying, "God can extend our carpet far beyond even our imagination." Listen to them describe two couples they met on this trip.

Emanoel and family

The request was for young, single Brazilians to go for two years to work alongside local (Baptist) pastors in Croatia, enabling them to fulfill their vision for church planting. But then God started extending the carpet even more, and gave a dream to an Assemblies of God pastor in Salvador, NE Brazil. In the dream, God told Emanoel to go to Croatia. He woke up, and wondered who "Croatia" was. The dream stayed with him all day and that night he researched it on the Internet, discovering that it was a country in Europe, and that it was 95% 'Christian'. "Why in the world would God want me to go to a country with that many Christians?" he wondered. But the conviction persisted, so he went back to the computer, and found that ECM was recruiting Brazilians for that country. He got in touch with Leonidas Duarte, Director of ECM Brazil, but Leonidas was not keen: not only was Emanoel married; he had three small children; he was Pentecostal; and he was black (Croatia has a very white population). But Emanoel persisted – God had TOLD him to go, so Leonidas flew up to Salvador, and by the end of a long lunch, Emanoel and Francine had been accepted for Croatia. By the time of our trip, they had been in Dugo Selo for four months. It has been hard – can you imagine moving from a laid-back vibrant seaside city in Brazil with a huge church family to a freezing, suspicious, rural village in Croatia with practically no Christians? But, and here is the carpet extending, they ALREADY have twenty folk meeting weekly in their home, and plans are well on the way to planting a church. Emanoel is laying aside his Pentecostal certainties; and his skin colour? No problem – apparently, everyone thinks he's Obama.

Romil and Elaine

Another carpet-growing story. Romil and Elaine, also a couple, went to a meeting of several thousand people in Brazil, where Stephen Bell and some Balkan pastors were speaking. One of these was Radovan Trajkovski from Travnik, Bosnia.

(continued on next page)

When Radovan saw Romil he picked him out from the crowd and told the translator to tell him, “God wants you in Bosnia”. Bosnia? Romil felt God was calling them to Portugal and he promptly put the incident out of his mind. One year ago he went on a group visit to Portugal, but first everyone went to the Balkans. As Romil got out of the car in Travnik, Radovan rushed up to him, tears streaming down his face, “I KNEW you’d come.” That was it – Romil’s heart was captured. He told Leonidas, “No need to look at Portugal; I’m coming here.” He went home to kiss his parents good-bye, collect Elaine, and after five months in Travnik he told us, “We thought we were coming to help Pastor Radovan, but instead, in him and his wife, we have found our spiritual parents.” Travnik is almost 100% Muslim and almost every building we saw was war-damaged – the suffering here was terrible. But Radovan has a vision to plant a church here, and now he has an Elisha to help him.

Send an email to Stephen Bell

Stephen has sent a message that his computer hard drive failed, and as a result his computer could not be repaired. He has a new computer now, but has lost all the information on the old computer, including his email address book. If you would like to receive news mailings (by email) from Stephen, or would like to know more about the Balkan Project, then send him an email. His address is stephen.bell@ecmi.org

The man in the Hat

At the beginning of a church service, a stranger wearing a large hat came and sat in a front pew. A man in the pew behind suggested to him that he should take off his hat. “No, I prefer to keep it on”, came the reply. A sidesman the approached him with the same request, only to receive the reply “I have every right to keep my hat on and I intend to do so.” Even at the Communion rail, the unknown man kept his hat on. After the service, the minister approached the man and said, “It has been a great pleasure to have you worship with us this morning and I very much hope you will join us every Sunday. However, it is the custom for men to remove their hats in church”. The man replied “Thank you very much, I enjoyed today’s service and will come again. In fact, I’ve been coming for six months but today is the first time anybody has spoken to me!”

Count Your Blessings 2014

and support Christian Aid

How are you going to mark the period of Lent I wonder? Instead of giving up treats of some kind, why not make Lent count in a different way with a “**Count Your Blessings**” calendar from **Christian Aid**?

The calendar provides 40 daily reflections which will inspire you to give thanks for the blessings in your life, and enable you, through your donations, to help change the lives of poorer communities around the globe.

e.g. Wednesday 12th March: On average, a five-minute shower in the UK uses twice as much water as someone in Africa uses in a day Give £1.00 if you took a shower today that lasted more than two and a half minutes.

I used a “Count Your Blessings” calendar last Lent and I found it very thought provoking and challenging. Why not give it a try this Lent. And for those who want, you can get it as a free app which can be delivered straight to your smart phone, iPad or iPodtouch.

You can get your calendars from Phil Tunstall or visit: christianaid.org.uk/lent; or email: orders@christian-aid.org; or phone: 0870 078 7788 and please quote code A018099 *Sally Vaughan*

Caviar in the churchyard

At the end of December we visited Bristol for a couple of days including a Sunday. We visited a church I used to attend while I was a student there many years ago, St Philip and St Jacob, or Pip ‘n Jay’s as it is more commonly known. Malcolm Widdecombe became the vicar there in 1963 and made a commitment, that out of every £3 the church received, £2 would be given away. When I attended the church in the 70’s the evening service was always packed as we, along with hundreds of others, crowded in to hear Malcolm’s sermons, which were always about 45 minutes long.

When we were there on December 29th (2013), I spoke to one of the current congregation, who turned out to be involved in outreach work. I mentioned that often in 1976 I would be sat next to tramps who came into the services for warmth and shelter- maybe they listened to the sermons too.

(continued at bottom of page 14)

A Thank You Thought

A few of you will remember me around 2010-2102. This is just to say thank you for your prayers and visits. I have written a song for you, to say thanks again. I am presently waiting for a nursing home and remain in hospital.

Catrina Kelly

Song for All

Slowly walking
As you go
Keep together
All the way

I'm with you
Quiet Sounds
In this loud world
All around

Now I write and sing
For you ... everyone ...

To say thank you
For your kindness
Today ...

Tomorrow

Caviar in the churchyard (cont)

He told me that now they have a tramp who lives in the churchyard but will never come inside. One night, he was in the church and some men appeared who identified themselves as bailiffs. He thought (he told me) that perhaps the church had failed to pay some bill, but it turned out that the bailiffs had just cleared out an expensive restaurant in the city which was bankrupt, and they had a lot of perishable food that they couldn't sell, and they wanted to give it to the church. He told me that he went out to find the tramp, and asked him whether he would like some caviar. "Only if it forms part of a meal", replied the tramp. So he went back in and cooked a full meal using the food from the bailiffs, including some caviar, and took it outside to the tramp.

Dave Bell

Carbon Fast 2014

Each year recently, Tearfund has suggested that we undertake a “Carbon Fast” for Lent. The idea is that by using less energy (causing less carbon to be burnt), we conserve some of the Earth’s resources and behave in a less selfish way. This year, the scheme has been publicised by the Anglican Diocese of Bath and Wells, and takes the form of a list of suggestions, each scoring between 1 and 12 points. Their suggestion is that we should try to score 40 points during Lent 2014, which they say would reduce the average “Carbon Footprint” by 40%.

Choose your 40 points from the list below

Each point represents about 1% of a person’s average carbon footprint

Install solar water heating	3 points
Install 4kW of solar panels	7 points
Turn the thermostat down by just 2 degrees	4 points
Switch to low-energy lighting	4 points
Reduce hot water temperature so it isn’t scalding hot	3 points
Increase loft insulation, seal doors and skirting boards	2 points
Use a basin of water rather than a shower	1 point
Double-glazing if you don’t already have it	2 points
Cavity wall insulation	3 points
Heat one room fewer	1 point
Leave nothing on standby	12 points
Drive steadily, accelerate slowly, anticipate stops	10 points
Never drive to the shops, buy online	1 point
Sell the second car	7 points
Share the car to work	3 points
Support local farmers, eat local produce	3 points
Change to a vegetarian diet	5 points
Go Vegan 3 days a week	5 points

Other ideas include transport sharing/cycling and walking; reducing food waste; using green energy; eating local produce; improving insulation and energy efficiency; sharing meals and starting a Transition Street project or Caring Neighbours scheme.

REGISTERS AND ROTAS

SIDESPERSIONS ROTA

AM

2nd March	G. Holden	D. Shemilt
	J. Rowlands	K. McKnight
9th March	K. Woodward	S. Bowes
	P. Roberts	D. Davies
16th March	J. Abrahams	D. Wilson
	V. Ledward	K. Thompson
23rd March	P. Hipkiss	J. Rowlands
	C. Wilding	D. Pickles
30th March		



FLOWER ROTA

2nd March	Flower Guild
9th March	Lent
16th March	Lent
23rd March	Lent
30th March	Mothering Sunday



ROADS FOR PRAYER

2nd March

Oulton Road
Oulton Mews
Princes Street
Queens Square
York Street

16th March

Bentley Close
Rendel Grove
Brindley Close
Rudyard Close

9th March

Navigation Loop
Rangeley View
Barnton Edge
Anderton Way/View

23rd March

Cressey Close
Joules Drive
Cauldon Way
Harecastle Bank

30th March

Saltersford Rise
Rolt Close
Millenium Way
Cameron Wharf



Hello my name is church

I'm sure you've heard a lot about me. I have no shortage of critics. Perhaps you have heard that I am full of...

Hypocrites, Clowns, Greedy people, The self-righteous

Maybe you needed me and I was:

Too busy, Too "righteous", Too broke, Too blind

Maybe you joined me and found I was:

Distant, Demanding, Dull, Preoccupied

Maybe you tried to serve in me but were caught off guard by:

Business meetings, Committees, Teams, Bureaucracy

Maybe you left and were surprised that nobody:

Called, Cared, Noticed, Invited you back

Perhaps your experience has driven you to:

Speak negatively of me, Swear to never come back to me, Proclaim that no one needs me, Believe you're better off without me

If this is true, I have something to say to you:

I'm sorry, I was wrong, I blew it, I made a huge mistake

But remember, I never said my name was:

Perfect, Flawless, Complete, Arrived

My name is church. I welcome the:

Hypocrite, Dry, Self-righteous, Shallow

I welcome the *Sincere, Passionate, Forgiving, Selfless*

I cannot shut my doors to the people who make you:

Angry, Uncomfortable, Impatient, Self-conscious

In order for us to all toworship together Christ was:

Shamed, Beaten, Killed, Resurrected

Which is far worse than being:

Bored, Uncomfortable, Embarrassed, Ignored

So why not come back to church and let all of these messed up people:

Challenge you, Sharpen you, Strengthen you, Humble you

I can't promise you that the people will be great. This is church. It's not:

Heaven, Paradise, Beulah Land, The Celestial city

Come back. *God wants you here, The body needs you here, The world needs your witness here, You belong here.*

Hello, my name is church. *I miss you, I love you, I'm sorry,
Can't wait to see you.*

Groups and Activities

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 Mrs S. Sanders, Mr P. Mason, Mrs D. Hazlehurst Mrs A. Burton, Mrs M. Hillman, Mr K. Reynolds, Mrs E. Woodhead	
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 (Mon 9.30 – 11.15am)	Sandra Morray.....	286093
3rd Stone Brownies (Mon 6:00-7:30pm, First School)	Janet Smith.....	815939

Young People's Activities take place in the Centre during the Sunday morning service except on the fourth Sunday in the month, which is the family service.

Climbers 3-7 years **Explorers** 7-11 years **Pathfinders** 11-14 years

The following activities take place every week week in the Centre during term time.

Monday Toddlers 9.30 am

THE MAGAZINE TEAM

Mission News & Prayer Diary Cecilia Wilding 817987

Please send material for the magazine to

Dave Bell, c/o Christ Church Parish Office, Christ Church Way,
Staffs ST15 8ZB or by email to christchurch_mag@yahoo.co.uk

Christ Church on the Internet

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Magazine contributions	christchurch_mag@yahoo.co.uk