

PARISH DIRECTORY

Varith and Childrenia | Kiaran Mal/night

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)

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Vicar Paul Kingman 812669

The Vicarage, Bromfield Court

Youth and Children's Worker	Kieran McKnight	600734 07731984755
Electoral Roll Officer	Irene Gassor	814871
Parish Office Christ	Church Centre, Christ Chu Email	urch Way, Stone, Staffs ST15 8ZB office@christchurchstone.org 811990
Deaconess (Retired)	Ann Butler	818160
Readers	Dave Bell Helen Bowes David Rowlands Michael Thompson Cecilia Wilding	815775 812317 816713 813712 817987
Music Co-ordinators	Pete Mason Sue Kingman	815854
Wardens	Andy Stone David Beauchamp	286526
Deputy Wardens	Phil Tunstall,	817028
CHRIST CHURCH (CENTRE	

CHURCH SCHOOLS

Booking Secretary

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

Kate or Irene

Head: Mr N. Chesters 354125

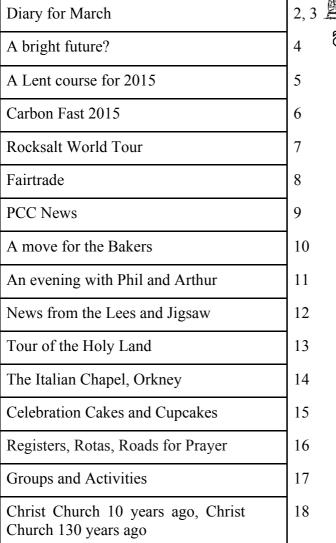
(Office)

811990

Christ Church Academy, Old Road

Principal: Mr C. Wright MAEd 354047

IN THIS ISSUE





Crown and Anchor

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 Diary

1st	9:15am	Communion Matthew 26:31-46 "Jesus' prophecy and prayer"
	6:00pm	CE (2) "Jesus and the crucifixion"
2nd	9:30am 6:30pm	Christ Church First School assembly Breathe yrs 5-8
3rd		Coffee before midweek service; service at 10:30 Youth Club yrs 9-13
4th		KingZone yrs 2-4 Lent course "Fruitfulness on the front line"
5th	_	Christ Church Academy assembly Deanery Synod at Christ Church
6th		
7th		Prayer meeting followed by breakfast Arthur and Phil's Quiz Night
8th	2:00pm	Morning Prayer Matthew 26:47-68 "Jesus arrested and on trial" Holiday Club meeting CE (3) "Jesus and the resurrection"
9th	6:30pm	Christ Church First School assembly Breathe yrs 5-8 Standing committee
10th	3:00pm	Coffee before midweek service; service at 10:30 Autumn House Youth Club yrs 9-13
11th	1	KingZone yrs 2-4 Lent course "Fruitfulness on the front line"
12th	1:20pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
13th		
14th	7:00pm	Rocksalt concert (see page 7)
15th	9:15am 6:00pm	Family service- Mothering Sunday Matt 20:20-28 "Kingdom challenges" Christianity Explained (4) "Grace not works"
	2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th 10th 11th 12th 13th 14th	6:00pm 2nd 9:30am 6:30pm 3rd 10:00am 7:00pm 4th 6:00pm 7:30pm 5th 1:20pm 7:30pm 6th 7th 8:30am 7:00pm 8th 9:15am 2:00pm 6:00pm 9th 9:30am 6:30pm 7:30pm 10th 10:00am 3:00pm 7:00pm 11th 6:00pm 7:30pm 12th 1:20pm 13th 14th 7:00pm

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Mon	16th	9:30am 6:30pm	Christ Church First School assembly Breathe yrs 5-8
Tue	17th	10:00am 12:30pm 7:00pm	Coffee before midweek service; service at 10:30 Seekers Club Youth Club yrs 9-13
Wed	18th	6:00pm 7:30pm	KingZone yrs 2-4 Lent course "Fruitfulness on the front line"
Thu	19th	1:20pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	20th		
Sat	21st		
Sun	22nd	9:15am 6:00pm	Communion Matthew 26:69-27:10 "Peter's failure and Judas' death" CE (5) "What is a Christian? (i) repenting"
Mon	23rd	9:30am 6:30pm	Christ Church First School assembly Breathe yrs 5-8
Tue	24th	10:00am 12:30pm 6:00pm 7:00pm	Coffee before midweek service; service at 10:30 Seekers Club Christ Church Academy governors' meeting Youth Club yrs 9-13
Wed	25th	6:00pm 7:30pm	KingZone yrs 2-4 Lent course "Fruitfulness on the front line"
Thu	26th	1:20pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	27th	9:45am	Christ Church First School Easter service
Sat	28th		
Sun	29th	9:15am 6:00pm	Morning Prayer Matthew 27:11-26 "Jesus before Pilate" CE (6) "What is a Christian? (ii) believing"
Mon	30th	9:30am 6:30pm	Christ Church First School assembly Breathe yrs 5-8
Tue	31st	10:00am 12:30pm 7:00pm	Coffee before midweek service; service at 10:30 Seekers Club Youth Club yrs 9-13

At the end of this month summertime begins. You may be relieved to leave behind the shorter days. As we look to the future we have the expectation of spring bulbs bursting into life, beckoning the long summer days.

The emergence from darkness to experience the dawning of light illustrates the Christian hope. The future hope of glory burns ever more brightly: for the final day will involve seeing the Lord face to face and that is a welcome prospect.

Even though that may be true, what do we make of not seeing things this way right now? Right now we may face what looks like a dead end: it could be in the area of money, emotions or relationships that things seem less than clear. Yet the Bible encourages us to continue to trust in the Lord: to rely on what he promises and conduct life in the light of how things will work out in the end. So, even if we can't see the way forward, we are to exercise faith in the One who has called us into his Kingdom. Faith is <u>not</u> about making a wish under our breath as we blow out the candles on a cake. Faith <u>is</u> about putting our full trust in the faithful one. The Lord Jesus alone can provide the way forward. He alone will guide his people, as a shepherd guides his sheep. For Jesus is the way to God made plain, the truth about God made clear and is the very life of God made available.

The direction that he wants us to take becomes apparent as we head down the pathway that he puts before us. Quite often the way becomes understandable as we make the journey. So, we are not to hesitate in starting but to start in faith.

There is a proverb that says: "The path of the righteous is like the morning sun, shining ever brighter till the full light of day" (Proverbs 4v18). The Lord's people will one day stand in the full light, the glory of

eternity, to see the big picture. Only then will we see God's purpose in the pathway we have been led to follow.

The important thing for now is to trust and obey the one who has brought us out of darkness into the light of the Kingdom of his Son.

Join us as we discover more about the bright hope that is ours through Jesus Christ. Paul



What does fruitfulness look like in our everyday lives? How can we serve God in the many, many hours of our waking time?

Whether we are housewives or students, factory workers, sales assistants or retired, God can use us in many different ways. That's not by adding new things to our much-to-do-about everything lists. Rather, it is about what happens when we let God show us how he wants us to respond in



the places we find ourselves day by day our 'frontlines', wherever they are. We don't need a high position, a university degree, or lots of money to have significant impact for the Lord. What if, for now at least. people God wants us to love and serve are the people we meet day-to-day?

The sessions have stories all about

followers of Jesus who have come to see the places and the people they encounter on their frontlines. They are testimonies that God still works powerfully, wondrously, and mysteriously through his people today. Will you add your testimony as you become part of this great calling to be fruitful in our daily lives?

Join in the course to be encouraged in your discipleship. We hope to run a course in both Oulton and at Christ Church, Stone (more information to follow).

Paul Kingman

Fair Trade goods will be on sale after the service on 22nd March

Carbon Fast 2015

Fasting or dieting is popular in Lent. How about reducing your carbon consumption instead? (Continued on pages 11 and 15)

Sun 1st	Find the most environmentally-friendly way you can get to church today- walk, bike, bus, car-share. Remember, car-sharing helps you get to know your neighbours better!
Mon 2nd	Avoid buying seafood this week that was fished unsustainably
Tues 3rd	Set a timer and try to finish your shower in 5 minutes
Wed 4th	Check all electrical equipment not in use is switched off at the socket. Standby still uses electricity!
Thurs 5th	Turn your heating thermostats down by 1 degree
Fri 6th	Find ways to save paper. Print on both sides, use recycled paper, or send an email instead!
Sat 7th	Use your dishwasher only with a full load
Sun 8th	Think about Jesus' parables and how he drew on the environment for inspiration
Mon 9th	Insulate your loft and cavity walls
Tues 10th	Go meat-free for the day
Wed 11th	Hang your clothes on the line to dry instead of using a tumble-dryer
Thurs 12th	Re-wear clothes that aren't dirty. Use a cool wash in the machine
Fri 13th	Take unwanted clothes to a charity shop
Sat 14th	Check your tyre pressures are correct. Don't accelerate sharply when driving- this doubles fuel consumption
Sun 15th	Consider your church's commitment to the environment
Mon 16th	Buy local meat and vegetables
Tues 17th	Stop unwanted junk mail if you can
Wed 18th	Say No to Unwanted plastic Bags (SNUB). Use cloth shopping bags. Keep a plastic bag in your pocket for impromptu purchases

The band Rocksalt was formed in 1977 at the height of the church coffee bar scene. The four original members of John Martin (Bass), Pete Mason (Keyboards), Tim Headley (Drums) and Phil Stokes (Guitar) put their combined and albeit limited musical skills together and started playing at any venue that would have them!

After three years Tim Jenks joined the line up returning from the USA, and we were "spoilt" with two guitarists!

Greg Szabo, the lighting engineer, flicked switches to make lights go on and off and has subsequently made a career of flashing lights for real bands all over the world.

Rocksalt worked with Youth for Christ, local churches and student unions and over the years played Spring Harvest, Green Belt and Fresh Ground as well as making a lot of noise in both Lichfield and Coventry cathedrals as well as school gigs, pubs and many other assorted venues. With the pressures of young families and real jobs the lads laid down their instruments from gigging, called an and to 1 am metaryous garviers.

instruments from gigging, called an end to 1 am motorway services meals, and all ended up leading music in local churches.



Realising that the clock is ticking and only Pete still has a full head of hair, the idea came to put on a tour at a few select venues while we can still carry the equipment.

The first gig will be at Christ Church Centre, Stone on Saturday 14th March at 7.30 Admission free but donations to CMS JigSaw charity for kids in the Philippines.

Other dates and venues will be announced in due course. If you remember those heady coffee bar days, heard Rocksalt all those years ago and are allowed out of your Care Home for the evening, or if you just fancy a good evening out with some great Christian Rock Music , come and join the fun.

The last time we all played together was 23 years ago and so before you ask, yes, we do plan to have a practice before the night! *Pete*

Facts

There are over 4,500 Fairtrade products ranging from coffee to flowers to gold. 1.4 million farmers and workers are employed in 1,140 producer organisations. Products are sold in 125 countries.

What is Fairtrade?

It was created as an alternative way of doing trade based on partnership; the interests of farmers and workers are just as important as other commercial considerations. It also represents one solution to poverty and a model for development.

Key Principles

Trading practices are fair and not one sided.

Prices paid are fair and sufficient for producers and workers to earn more than enough to meet their daily needs.

Payments are often made in advance to ensure the supplier can fulfil orders.

Producers and workers have a voice, whether organised into groups or involved in workplaces where there is freedom of association.

Safe working conditions, non-discrimination and welfare of children.

What is the Fairtrade Premium?

This is money paid on top of the minimum price that is invested in social, environmental and economic development projects. From UK sales alone, £23 million of Fairtrade Premium was invested by producers in 2013. There is still a long way to go, however, as only 1.2% cocoa and

10% of tea worldwide is fairtrade. Fairtrade Fortnight this year (23rd

February – 8^{th} March) will focus on a few core commodities – cocoa, tea and sugar.

Our fairtrade goods are supplied by Traidcraft – UK's leading fair-trade company which was established in 1979.

Recently Traidcraft have started to buy sugar from Swaziland, where over two thirds of the population live below the poverty line and farming conditions are difficult. Phillip Mthombo, secretary of Mavelela Farmers' Association, says 'Fairtrade has changed us a lot especially when it comes to our working environment. People want to come and work here because of the better standards from Fairtrade'.

(continued on page 9)

Traidcraft also buys sugar from Mauritius – it is unrefined and provides more income for Fairtrade sugar farmers. It is packed locally by a Fairtrade business which employs disabled and disadvantaged people.

Palm oil is one of the top five traded products. Traidcraft is taking it back to the small farmers and processors in Ghana where the palms grow between the cocoa plants. Palm oil was first exported from Ghana in the 1900s before they were priced out of the market by plantations in the Far East. It is used in 'Clean and Fair' cleaning products launched last year. It is now also an ingredient in the cookies together with Mauritian sugar. Joyce is a palm oil farmer who works for Serendipalm; she hopes her work will allow her to have a better life 'Please buy Fairtrade products so we farmers can earn more.'

In January, Traidcraft launched the **Fair Necessities Appeal**, to help families, '**grow** more, **earn** more and **eat** more'. The appeal closes on 3rd April. They are hoping to raise £1 million; the government will double every £1 donated. Donations are very welcome for our appeal - you don't have to buy from the Fairtrade stall.

The March sale is on 22^{nd} – look out for the Real Easter Egg - the only chocolate egg to tell the Easter story. In 2014, the Real Easter Egg was the runner up in a competition for the UK's favourite Fairtrade product. *Sheila*

PCC News

The PCC met on 21st January 2015 and the following matters were reported:

- The church heating is now completed and running well everyone seems to have noticed the improvement in the heating. The church is taking less time to warm up which has resulted in the heating being on for shorter periods. Thanks was expressed to all who gave their time to the project
- It was generally agreed that the Christmas services printed on cards was a good idea and feedback from people who had received the cards was good. There was a good spread of services at a range of times throughout the Christmas period.

(continued on page 10)

Dear friends at Christ Church,

We are writing to give you the most recent news about our situation in Senegal. We are in the process of leaving the House of Hope ministry where we have been working with street boys and and street girls for the past year. Our time at the House of Hope has been incredible in many ways as we have seen God's love grow in the children, and as we have seen them on a journey of transformation. It has been a privilege to share in that with the children and the staff. As we explained on our last visit this has not been without its challenges. We have found it extremely difficult to work with the couple who run the ministry. They are non WEC workers and work independently. They have an authoritarian and controlling leadership that has been difficult for us to work with. WEC recognise with us the problems in the leadership and together we have decided that it would be best for us to leave this ministry.

We will be taking some time to rest when we will finish later next week at the House of Hope. We will then start looking into other options to work with street children in Dakar. We will engage in a time of research, prayer and reflection. We hope and pray that in this time we will find healing in Christ as well as a renewed vision and direction for future ministry. We will delay our Wolof lessons for the time being until we reach a decision. This is a somewhat uncertain time and an important time for us. We value your prayers, love and support. Thank you

Adam and Sarah

(Adam and Sarah Baker are supported by the Christian organisation WEC)

PCC News (continued)

- Consideration is being given to improving the comfort of the seating in the church. The cost of pew cushions is being investigated and will be reviewed at the next meeting
- The attendance at the various Youth Groups has been good with the youngsters being attentive during the talks and providing thoughtful questions and observations

The next PCC meeting will be on Thursday 19th March 2015 Shelagh

An Evening with Phil and Arthur

Saturday 7th March at 7 pm 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 team quiz

Refreshments

Proceeds to the Church general fund



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

Carbon Fast 2015 (continued here and on page 15)

Thurs 19th	Think about your garden. Could you plant more native plants? Purchase seeds locally
Fri 20th	When you use a kettle, boil only the amount of water needed
Sat 21st	Switch off all lights, TV, etc if you will be out of a room for more than 10 minutes
Sun 22nd	Calculate your carbon footprint at www.carbonindependent.org
Mon 23rd	Replace as many light bulbs as possible with LED bulbs

Unfortunately I have been quite ill. I have been getting more and more tired over the last 6 months with other physical problems arising. After a number of blood tests we were surprised to be told I had diabetes. I am now on a strict diabetic diet which is beginning to control the sugar levels which is benefiting me slowly.

The street children's literacy program which was struggling to get going is now taking root also because of faithful prayer and hard work. There are two classes established, one beginner literacy class and an advanced class for those with some reading and writing skills. Judith the teacher is so happy with the progress and proud of the children who despite many trials are now attending each day. She says she is seeing real progress. Her one challenge she writes is that every day there are new children to the beginner class and as it is a progressive programme she has to restart lesson one each day!! She is looking for a solution, she smiles by saying they are all very good now at lesson one!

Prayers are needed for the kids clubs in the Metro Heights area of Manila. A month ago a local teacher began complaining of the noise of our kids' clubs, especially the playing and singing. We have listened to what she has had to say and she has many good points as some of the clubs have over a hundred in them and can be very noisy. However she has not been kind to our staff who are now afraid of her as she is threatening to go to the police to complain. (It is usual for the poorer class like our staff to be treated terribly by the police whatever the true situation just because of their class so that is why they are afraid.) As a result we have closed the kids' clubs for the time being in Metro heights. Please pray for God's guidance in this as many of the poorest children come to these clubs and need a place to meet and eat and join with their household groups and kids' clubs. We trust in God as he guides us.

SEWING MACHINES: This is a bit of an advert, Jigsaw has a big vision (as part of its employment programme) to start training classes for mums, dads and young people to learn to sew (by making clothes for the street children in Jigsaw.) We need 6 good condition electric sewing machines to be donated in the UK (or Philippines), we have the shipping sorted out through a company in Cambridge. If anyone does have a good condition sewing machine that they would like to donate, let me know and we will arrange to pick it up. This is a wonderful plan and will benefit many. Thank you.

Tim Lee

30 August—8 September 2015

Led by John & Linda Marshall (Retired Pastor: Church Lane Evangelical Church, Stafford)

Visiting Jerusalem, Galilee, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Mount Carmel & much more

Cost £1450 inc. all fares, entry to all sites, 4* hotels (half-board), coach & guide. No hidden extras!

EARLY BOOKING RECOMMENDED TO ENSURE AIRLINE RESERVATIONS

For details; 01785 242635 / email@lindaandjohn.net A Christian Holiday People Tour organized by Worldwide Christian Travel

If you have ever thought of treating yourself to a holiday in the Holy Land, here's your opportunity! Linda & John Marshall have been asked by Worldwide Christian Travel to lead another tour this summer. The group will fly out on Sunday 30 August and return ten days later on Tuesday 8 September. It is a wonderful opportunity to visit Bethlehem, Galilee, Jerusalem, Nazareth and much more, all with a local guide. There will be times of worship together. All the hotels are four star (half board). The coach has air-conditioning! Ask John & Linda for more information; 01785 242635 or mail@lindaandjohn.net. Details can also be found on the Worldwide Christian Travel website. We would love to walk with you where Jesus walked.

Linda & John Marshall

Home; 19 Heath Drive, Stafford ST16 1RB,

Phone; 01785 242635 Mobile; 07876 551658 Last summer we cruised round the Northern Isles – not in our narrowboat, I must add. One of the most memorable visits was to this Chapel.

In the last years of WWII Orkney housed several hundred Italian prisoners of war, captured during the North African campaign and sent to build the concrete barriers between the various islands that make up the Orkneys. Churchill had ordered these barriers to prevent enemy ships from entering Scapa Flow, where our navy moored.

The prisoners deeply felt the lack of a place to worship and were given two Nissen huts. They placed these end to end, joined them together and decorated first the inside and later the outside.

Almost everything in the Chapel was made by the prisoners out of everyday materials they could get hold of. The altar was made from concrete, candelabra from iron and brass and the iron interior of the Nissen huts was transformed with plasterboard and painted to look like stone blocks. The main craftsman, Domenico Chiocchetti, painted a superb altarpiece of Madonna and Child, inspired by a holy picture he had carried with him all through the war. The recurrent theme, illustrated by dove, olive branch, a sheathed sword, and the words Regina Pacis, is Peace.

After the war ended the chapel gradually fell into disrepair but in the late fifties Chiocchetti was persuaded to return and carry out a renovation which has lasted to this day with the help of the Chapel Preservation Committee.



The Chapel is a must for visitors to the Orkneys and we were moved to tears by the faith of these prisoners who had transformed an ugly corrugated iron hut into a sanctuary where one can kneel and praise God for his goodness.

Monica

Celebration Cakes and Cupcakes

Here at Christ Church we are fortunate enough to have a dedicated Youth Worker. He works with young people in our local schools and through dedicated children and young people's clubs that take place throughout the week during term time.

In order to help this vital work to continue we need to raise funds to cover the costs of the youth worker post and the activities we provide for the young people.

Have you got a birthday or celebration coming up soon? If so why not give me a call and order one of our cakes or a batch of cupcakes. All money raised through this will be given to the Youth Fund.

Туре	7" round, 6" square	8" round	8" square
Madeira cake	£20	£23	£26
Chocolate cake	£27	£32	£36

Contact *Jacqueline Abrahams* on 07776 205322 or 01785 817020

	Icing tops	Buttercream tops
12 Vanilla cupcakes	£8	£10
12 Chocolate cupcakes	£10	£12

Carbon Diet 2015 (continued)

Tues 24th	Turn the water off while brushing your teeth
Wed 25th	Use rechargeable batteries when possible
Thurs 26th	Use only natural cleaning products
Fri 27th	Plan an eco-friendly holiday this year
Sat 28th	Try to buy nothing today
Sun 29th	Use no fuel for 1 hour this afternoon
Mon 30th	Reduce, Reuse, Re-purpose and Recycle
Tues 31st	Install a household energy monitor

FUNERAL

2nd February Ivy May Reaney Age 92

SIDESPERSONS ROTA

1st March C. Wilding J. Abrahams

V Ledward K Woodward

8th March K. Thompson J. Bowes

> D Shemilt **D** Davies

15th March D. Pickles K. McKnight

D Wilson G Holden

22nd March J. Rowlands P. Hipkiss

> P Roberts P Tunstall

29th March C. Wilding J Ahrahams

> V Ledward K Woodward

FLOWER ROTA

1st March Lent 8th March Lent

15th March Mothering Sunday

22nd March Lent 29th March Lent



15th March **Bentley Close**

Rendel Grove

Brindley Close

ROADS FOR PRAYER

1st March Oulton Road Oulton Mews **Princes Street** Queens Square

22nd March

Cressev Close Joules Drive Cauldon Way

Harecastle Bank

8th March

Navigation Loop Rangeley View Barnton Edge

Anderton Way/View Rudyard Close

29th March

Saltersford Rise Rolt Close

Millennium Way

Cameron Wharf and York Street



Groups and Activities

Deanery Synod RepsMr R. Brandon, Mrs A. Brandon, Mrs H. BowesP.C.C. MembersMrs I. Gassor, Mr G. Donaldson, Mrs K. Latham

Mrs S. Sanders, Mr P. Mason, Mr G. Holden

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

0110 01 0 111 12 110 11	, 11122	
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
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
(Mon 6:00-7:30pm, First Sch	ool)	

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 *Breathe* (years 5-8) Monday 6:30 pm *Youth Club* (years 9-13) Tuesday 7:00 pm *Kingzone* (years 2-4) Wednesday 6:00 pm

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

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

Christ Church Development Fund was set up, to receive money for a Youth Worker. An advertisement was sent out and it was hoped that interview would take place later in 2005.

"The Rock" drop-in cafe got off to a strong start, with young people coming to the Church Centre to play games.

The Boater's Christian Fellowship held a meeting at Christ Church on March 7th.

Christ Church First School Choir took part in "Celebrating Music 2005" at the Gatehouse Theatre, Stafford.

The Bishop of Lichfield's Lent Appeal supported the "Copperbelt Health Education Project" in Zambia as well as four local charities working with vulnerable children.

Christ Church 130 years ago

The church heating system had been improved, it was then hoped that it would serve its purpose properly.

Pew Rents had just been abolished. The Vicar noted that "while it is only natural that regular worshippers should be attracted to the same seat, there is no such thing as *ownership*. *All* the seats are free. The principle must be borne in mind that when seats are not occupied, they are free to all who choose to use them".

Services in the Meaford Schoolroom were well-attended, and 35 people from Meaford took the church magazine.

Wednesday evening services in Lent were based upon Isaiah 53

Six children were baptised, and funerals took place for two infants and a child of one year.

News arrived in England that Lord St. Vincent, of Meaford, died on Jan 23rd 1885 from a bullet wound in the thigh received at the Battle of Abu Klea in Sudan, on Jan 17th, while taking part in the expedition to rescue General Gordon in Khartoum. He was the great-grandson of John Jervis, Earl of St. Vincent, the famous naval commander from the Napoleonic Wars.

Collections taken for the "Church Restoration Fund" in February and March 1885, raised £71.