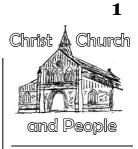
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Please get your contributions for the March magazine to the editor by **Friday** 17th February.

The big problem in editing a magazine like this is knowing when to stop there always seems to be something extra you could do to improve it. Well, we've stopped for this month. We hope you enjoy it as it is! Ed.

Church Spring Cleaning

Come and help us clear the cobwebs! Meet at church, **Saturday 4th February, 9. 30 am.** For more information speak to Dorothy Wilson.



Christ Church on the Internet

Parish website: www.churches.lichfield.anglican.org/stone/stonecc Parish Office email: christchurchcentre@pgen.net Magazine contributions: christchurch_mag@yahoo.co.uk

F	eł	orua	ry 2006
We	1	6.30 pm	Mothers' Union - Annual General Meeting Explore – Teenage Enquirers Group in the Centre Lent Course Leader Training Meeting
Th	2	1.20 pm	Christ Church Middle School Assembly
Fr	3	7.30 pm	Rock Café for young people in the Centre
Sa	4	9.00 am	Prayer Meeting at Christ Church followed by Breakfast Church Spring clean! See page 1
Bu	5		Parish Communion Sermon text: Mark 7: 1 - 23 "uncleanness"
			United Shared Tea - Update on the progress of our Youth Work see p15
		6.00 pm	Evening Prayer Sermon text: Hebrews 11:17 - 19 "Abraham (III)"
lo	6		Prayers for the schools and young people Cornerstone for teenagers, at 13 Queen's Square
ū	7		Assembly at Christ Church First School Seekers Club at Christ Church Middle School
Ve	8		Explore – Teenage Enquirers Group in the Centre Deanery Synod at St Mary's Church, Swynnerton
ħ	9	1.20 pm	Christ Church Middle School Assembly
r	10	7.30 pm	Rock Café for young people in the Centre
u	12	3 Before 9.15 am	Lent Morning Prayer Sermon text: Mark 7: 24 - 37 "Gentile faith"
		6.00 pm	Parish Communion Sermon text: Hebrews 11:20 "Isaac"
Ло	13	9.00 am	Prayers for the schools and young people Start of Holiday Club week Φ No Cornerstone this week
Гu	14	10.30 am	Holy Communion in church
Ve	15		Φ No Explore group this week
۶r	17		Φ No Rock Café this week
Sa	18	2.00 pm	Wedding of Matthew Bradbury and Lauren Rigden

Show me your way, O Lord and I will walk in your truth: let my heart delight to fear your name. Su 19 2 Before Lent 9.15 am Holiday Club Service 6.00 pm Evening Prayer Sermon text: Hebrews 11:21 "Jacob" Mo 20 1.10 pm Assembly at Alleyne's School 6.30 pm Cornerstone for teenagers, at 13 Queen's Square Tu 21 9.30 am Assembly at Christ Church First School 12.30 pm Seekers Club at Christ Church Middle School We 22 6.30 pm Explore – Teenage Enquirers Group in the Centre 7.45 pm Lent Course Leader Training Fr 24 7.30 pm Rock Café for young people in the Centre Sa 25 7.30 pm Opening of 24/7 Prayers at St John's Church, Stone Su 26 Sunday Before Lent - Education Sunday 9.15 am Morning Prayer with Christ Church First School Sermon text: Mark 8:22 - 30 "What do vou see?" 6.00 pm Holy Communion Sermon text: Hebrews 11:22 "Joseph" Мо 27 1.10 pm Assembly at Alleyne's School 6.30 pm Cornerstone for teenagers, at 13 Queen's Square 10.30 am Holy Communion in Church Tu 28 12.30 pm Seekers Club at Christ Church Middle School 5.00 pm Pancake Party in the Centre ASH WEDNESDAY - 1st March 7.45 pm Holy Communion - start of Lent Course for the Joint Benefice The following Activities take place every week in the centre during school term time: 9.30 am Monday Toddlers Friday Little Fishes 11.00 am Activities for children and young people take place in the centre during the Sunday morning service each Sunday (except on the fourth Sunday of the month, which is family service): **Climbers 3-7 years Explorers 7-11 years** Pathfinders 11-14 years All children are welcome

4 This world is *not* enough!

What is there to look forward to after the January sales? If we live as though this world is the only home we'll ever own, then we will concentrate on making it as comfortable as possible and try to build heaven on earth. But disappointment and distress soon lead to disillusionment or despair. Jesus' disciples have a special responsibility. For when Christians dilute the faith and wrap themselves in material comfort, they fail to engage the world with the good news of Jesus Christ and never fulfil the commission to *make disciples*.

Twenty five years ago a prominent Christian leader wrote about the importance of discipleship: 'The vast majority of western Christians are church-members, pew-fillers, hymn-singers, sermon-tasters, Bible-readers, even born-again believers or Spirit-filled charismatics – but not true disciples of Jesus. If we were willing to learn the meaning of real discipleship and actually to become disciples, the church in the West would be transformed, and the resultant impact on society would be staggering. This is no idle claim. It happened in the first century when a tiny handful of timid disciples began in the power of the Spirit, the greatest spiritual revolution the world has ever known' (Watson 1981, *Discipleship*). How are we shaping up in 2006? Have we yet realised that this world is not enough?

While the apostle Paul was in prison he wrote: 'For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain' (Philippians 1v21). Paul and Silas were imprisoned due to the hostility aroused by their preaching, which resulted in the conversion of people like Lydia, an immigrant trader in the prized purple cloth. Paul's words get to the heart of discipleship: it is a life that has Jesus as its central and overriding guide and is assured of entering his presence in heaven. This exposes our restless consumerist attitudes and challenges short-term goals. Paul holds up a far greater purpose in life and keeps in mind a glorious destiny. It is a great anchor for the soul.

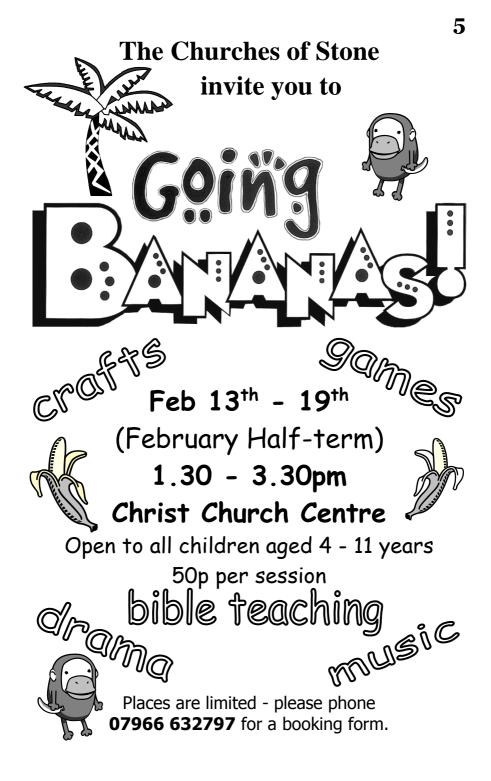
During the run-up to Easter we will have a study course on DISCIPLESHIP. The course draws out lessons from Paul's letter to the Philippians. Paul's own attitude to suffering and his behaviour in the face of difficulties has led to it being known as 'the epistle of joy.' He provides both challenge and reassurance. It paints a radical picture of what it means to be a Christian: having a Christ-like humility, being single minded about the future in the light of eternity, being



anxiety free as a result of an active prayer life, and able to do all things by the strength given to us by God.

I hope that you will take part in this special Lent course and grow in your joy as a disciple of Christ.

Paul Kíngman





The Friends of Shallowford House invite you to

ROOTS, SHOOTS AND FRUIT

Sally Vaughan will guide us through a day of quiet and reflection, with some chance for self expression in the arts.

Tuesday 14th February

10 am - 3.30 pm

Cost: £ 14, coffee and lunch provided.

Please book with the Warden, Shallowford House.

tel: 01785 760233

e-mail: warden@shallowfordhouse.freeserve.co.uk

Send a Cow

Members of Mother's Union supported by several members of our congregation at Christ Church, gave money in lieu of individual cards to church friends. I am pleased to say we were able to send £210 to the Send a Cow charity.

Thank you all for your support and to all who took the time to read about the work of Send a Cow and who chose to support the charity privately.



Please look at the card and letter of thanks on the notice board by the book stall, and take away any of the LIFELINES if you wish to learn more of this very successful ongoing work.

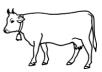
Audrey Haywood



FAIRTRADE

We are not having a sale in February, but we are having a special sale of Fairtrade goods on **Tearfund Sunday - 5th March**. More Fairtrade goods will be available, including gifts suitable for Mothering Sunday.

Guarantees a better deal for Third World Producers



8 To the congregations in the diocese . . .

often walk past a rather sad-looking church building in London. It's on a prominent corner with lots of passers-by. But the stone-work is grimy and the notice-board never changes. I've never seen anybody at all go in or out. Recently, last time I passed it, there's been a large bright new plastic banner above the notice-board, saying: 'Sunday School this Sunday at 10:00am', and, even better, a picture of an excited child.

This year I believe that God is calling us to focus on the children and young people's work of our diocese, and to plan boldly. It continues to concern me that in some parishes I visit the young are so few. This should not be. 'Let the children come unto me,' said the Lord, and England needs its young people to be brought up to know Jesus and his love.

We may be a post-Christian society but equally we are a post-atheist society. Religion of all sorts is everywhere. Church schools have never been more popular. Uniformed organisations like Scouts and Guides, and Boys and Girls Brigades meet a crucial need. Parents long for their children to be brought up with right values and good foundations for life.

Last year, for the first time, the diocese organised a Christian tent at the V Festival - a large rock festival near Telford. And we were amazed at the hundreds of young people who wanted to come in and try different ways of praying and to ask deep questions about faith and about God.

I believe the rather neglected-looking church building that I mentioned at the start will attract young parents and their children with its bright new banner. The question for the elderly congregation inside is: 'Will they come again?'

A young woman told me how on moving to a new area away from this diocese she started prospecting for a church for a christening. She tried five different churches and nobody spoke to her in any of them; nobody helped her with the heavy buggy up and down the steps; crucially there was no crèche in any of these five churches and no sermon that she thought would interest her young husband. So there is work for us all to do if we claim to be the Church for England!

How do we respond when strangers appear? How welcome do we make people feel? When God welcomes us he does it with open arms and accepts us as we are. When we welcome new people do we welcome them as they are or do we expect them first to become like us? Is that screaming child at the back of church a nuisance or a blessing?

As a diocese, we are going to be considering what kind of central support we should be giving to the parishes and their youth work over the next few years. Our schools and specially our church schools will of course play a central part in this. But interesting strategic questions face us.

Do we, for instance, need a youth and children's missioner working across the diocese? Or should we appoint a youth officer and trainer for each Area. Or should we ask gifted people to start youth congregations in different places and use them to inspire and train others?

I'd be grateful for some concerted prayer, perhaps on Ash Wednesday again. It was really good to see so many churches responding to the challenge to organise concerted prayer for growth last Ash Wednesday. For instance, a church in the Staffordshire Moorlands kept their building open all day with a rota of people offering a continuous chain of prayer.

I hope that PCCs everywhere will pray and think about what steps to take to fill our churches with children again, to disciple children in the community through midweek activities and worship and to reconnect the young people of England with Jesus Christ and with his Gospel which first formed our nation.

Jonathan Gledhill

🌮 Thank You 🏒

A big 'thank you' to all who supported the Patagonia Pudding Party, to raise funds for my imminent trip to Chile with Raleigh International. It raised $\pounds 252$, for which I am very thankful.

Mhairi Greer

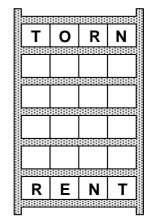
Su Doku

Fill in the grid so that each row, column and 3X3 square contains the digits 1 - 9

		2				8		
5			9		6			3
9				2				5
	4	5		8			1	
			2		9			
	3			4		6	5	
1				7				4
4			5		1			9
		7				2		

Word Ladder

Here's a puzzle for you to rip into - change TORN into RENT one letter at a time, making a new word at each step.



10 From the Mission Field

Better Choices There were 2 workshops for Kweneng District Church Youth and Hope of Glory Church Youth in Gaborone with over 50 youth learning to make choices in life.

Life at the CrossRoads We helped to conduct

The Beesigomwe family are our mission partners in Botswana.

three teacher conferences this year. Our partners - The Baptist Mission have taught 12,000 students using CrossRoads, sharing the Gospel in schools. We are also working with the Gaborone District and evangelical Fellowship of Botswana as well as Ministry of Education to provide some answers to stemming the spread of HIV/AIDS and other social ills through biblical principles. Pray for the coming year plans that seem to promise more opportunities and openings.

Pastors Partnerships In another development, we had a partnership conference with pastors of different denominations. It was a joy to hear the resources and strategies God has given to the body of Christ to help fulfil the Great Commission. We all agreed, this came a little too late, but our God is able and there will be opportunities to share.

Prescription for Hope Working with Evangelical Fellowship of Botswana we saw 120 pastors, women and youth leaders attending a four-day conference sponsored by Samaritan Purse. We taught about "Marital Faithfulness" and "Character Development" between us. A pilot project engaging the Church in an effort to give Christian answers to the moral dilemma facing our country today was launched.

Great Commission We have been training three people to be full time Christian workers. This was the first time to run the Great Commission Training Centre for Campus Crusade for Christ in Botswana. Many students were reached with the Gospel and many gave their lives to Jesus Christ.

Partnership Development We have been given a sabbatical for one year to develop more partnerships with Christians and Church groups and will do a ministry with couples. Pray that it will not take too long to find them. We believe the Lord has all it takes missionaries to stay focused on their call.

We have been blessed being part of Christ Church and being so well taken care of by the Church and its members. Our Missionary work in Botswana and beyond would have been more challenging without your involvement. Thank you and may God richly bless you all.

Who are ... Causeway PROSPECTS?

Relieve it or not . . .

D1,200,000 people in Britain have a learning disability - what we used to call mental handicap. That is roughly 2% of the population. They are no longer locked away in institutions, as was the case for 150 years. Instead people with learning As a church we support PROSPECTS in our prayers and in our giving, and a PROSPECTS group meets monthly at Christ Church.

disabilities now live where you and I live. They share our streets and shops, libraries and pubs, buses and trains. Some live with their families; some live with other people who have similar disabilities.

Not in our Churches

They are everywhere - well, almost! By and large they are not in our churches. In spite of their presence in every community, every parish, people with learning disabilities are not to be found in most congregations. Their absence goes unnoticed, a matter of little or no concern to most, and even a relief to some!

If churches continue to adopt a "take it or leave it" attitude to their outreach, this state of affairs will continue. Many of the things Christians take for granted stand like barriers to people with learning disabilities: the ability to read, to reason, to think in abstract conceptual terms, not to mention our Christian jargon.

If a person with learning disability were to drop in to your church next Sunday morning, would they come back a second time? It is not that they cannot benefit from our church services but that, as things are, the benefit may be very limited.

What Causeway PROSPECTS does For more than a decade Causeway PROSPECTS has been helping Christians to bring the Good News of God's love to people previously overlooked by traditional forms of evangelism and ministry. There is now a network of Causeway PROSPECTS groups across Britain. Each month they provide fellowship, friendship and ministry to over 1,500 people with learning disabilities.

Web site: www.prospects.org.uk. Email: info@prospects.org.uk



For information about our local Prospects group contact Kath Thompson or Alison Greer.

12 Visit to Hebron School, South India

At the end of January, Cecilia Wilding and Kelly Maltby are flying out to South India to visit the three families we support at Hebron School – the Barons, Humphreys and Joscelynes. You will probably know quite a lot about these families through articles in the magazine and the Prayer Diary, even if you have never had the joy of meeting them.

We are going to take greetings from the Christ Church family and to learn more of what they are doing, and how we can support them in their work.

We would value your prayers for:

- our preparations, that we will not forget anything vital, and that we may know the assurance of God's presence and guidance.
- safe journeys on 30/31 January via Heathrow, Bangalore, Coimbatore and then by taxi to Ootacamund in the Nilgiri Hills, and the return on 14/15 February.
- our time at Hebron to be an encouragement to those we visit, a help rather than a hindrance in their very busy schedules (term will just be starting as we arrive).
- us both to keep well and find our way around quickly. We are staying at a hotel in Ooty rather than in the School itself.

Please ask us if there is anything else you would like to know. We may be able to answer you!!

Cecilia & Kelly

Prayer news from Dom & Clare Joscelyne

Dominic has negotiated some more appropriate work to suit his skills with his team leader. This work is more home based and so will also fit better around his fathering role. Praise God big style for this development.

Clare has been working hard to learn the electronics necessary for the standard 9 project coming up. She is busy writing the schemes of work for the coming half term (to Easter). Pray that she can get up to speed and deliver quality lessons.

Clare's Head of Department is taking a sabbatical next year please pray (and ask around) that his position is filled by a technology specialist.

We are <u>still</u> trying to sell our narrowboat through a broker back in the UK. We are <u>still</u> anxious over this and would appreciate your continuing prayers.

Women's World Day of Prayer "Signs of the Times"

3rd March 2006 - St Dominic's Church - 10.30 am Please note that this year we are holding the service in the morning, rather than in the evening as in previous years.

11

14

16

20

22

12

18

21

19

Crossword by 'Oddjob'

Clues Across

- 4 Small upper room, stirred but unshaken. (6)
- 7 Keel off round island races, unfairly called black. (6)
- 8 Either way, she's worth less than a rupee. (4)
- 9 The present day? But it's past or future! (9)
- 10 Kill without hesitation backwards - it's beaten. (4)
- 11 Ranker alternative. (2)
- 12 Alter course about North, can this refer to Bede? (9)
- 15 Greek sign for maternal association? (2)
- 16 Light-coloured wine? (4)
- 19 Softly achieving the goal of spreading the word. (9)
- 20 Present soldier with news of the markets. (4)
- 21 Leads astray? I lead as a matter of principle. (6)
- 22 Put out from the seat of authority by the sound of it! (6)

Clues Down

- 1 Leader of the flock, not a climatic report. (6)
- 2 Exacting way to call hospital department. (9)
- 3 Five about foreign is looking jolly. (6)
- 4 Missile takes in note for attack of the vapours. (5)
- 5 It's quite normal to include a singer. (5)
- 6 I, surrounded by shellfish, make demands for payment. (6)
- 10 Plunged into darkness? No, euphoric! (10)
- 13 Utopia proclaimed by rat in song. (7)
- 14 Odds on, I obtained a tap. (6)
- 15 Drop S for its partner in single mix. (6)
- 17 Point to adjudicator and sovereign. (5)
- 18 Does King Charles possess a hat with knobs on? (5)



10



Find a word to link each pair of words.

Laughing - Fire Rubber - Stand Fire - Master Master - Signature Plaster - Off

Solution on Page 15

13

14 PCC News

• We are still seeking a person to take up the role of **PCC Secretary** as from May this year. Anyone who feels they may have a call to take on this role should have a word with the Vicar.

The PCC met on Wednesday 18th January 2006 and the following matters were reported on, discussed and/or decided.

- As from January 2006, the Mid-week Communion Services take place at 10.30am on the second and fourth Tuesday in the month instead of the second and fourth Thursdays.
- Discussion of our **Mission Action Plan** continued and we have now reached the stage of formulating our Plan. An extra meeting may be needed to do this.
- The Vicar highlighted events in the coming months The Children's Holiday Club at Half Term (13th-17th February) with the Holiday Club Service on Sunday 19th February 2006; the 24/7 Prayer Event from the evening of Saturday 25th to the evening of Sunday 26th February based at St John's, Stone; the Lent Course starting on Wednesday 1st March 2006; and events planned for Good Friday.
- There is to be a **spring-cleaning day** for the church on Saturday 4th February 2006 followed by lunch together. **ALL WELCOME.**
- A large **bequest** has been received by the church and the church is seeking God's will as to how it should be used.
- After considerable problems with the office computers, we now have a fully functioning **office computer.** A **video projector** is to be installed in the Westbridge Room in the near future.
- Our **Youth Worker**, Thomas Nash, with his wife, Clare, have now been with us for six months. On 8th January, Tom reported back to the church and produced a news and prayer sheet regarding youth work. On Saturday 5th February 2006 there is to be a Bring and Share Tea in the Centre to hear about developments in their first six months, consider the future, and pray together.

The next PCC meeting is on Monday, 20th March 2006.



Streets of Prayer

Please pray this month for all the people living in these streets in our Parish.



5th February Navigation Loop Rangeley View Barnton Edge Anderton View **12th February** Bentley Close Rendel Grove Brindley Close Rudyard Close

26th February

Saltersford Rise Rolt Close Millennium Way Cameron Wharf

Youth work update

There will be a 'bring and share' tea on

Sunday 5th February 2006 from 4.15-5.30 pm

in Christ Church centre.

This will be an opportunity:

- To hear about developments in the first 6 months.
- To consider the future.
- To pray together.
- To talk informally over tea.

This will give everyone the chance to hear about the progress made to date and our future hopes. Do come if you can.

Paul Kingman

Puzzle Solutions

Su Doku								
7	1	2	4	3	5	8	9	6
5	8	4	9	1	6	7	2	3
9	6	3	7	2	8	1	4	5
2	4	5	6	8	3	9	1	7
6	7	1	2	5	9	4	3	8
8	3	9	1	4	7	6	5	2
1	9	6	3	7	2	5	8	4
4	2	8	5	6	1	3	7	9
3	5	7	8	9	4	2	6	1

Crossword

Across:4 Static, 7 Kettle, 8 Anna, 9 Christmas, 10 Drum, 11 Or, 12 Venerable, 15 Mu, 16 Port, 19 Preaching, 20 Gift, 21 Ideals, 22 Thrown **Down:** 1 Wether, 2 Stringent, 3 Festive, 4 Steam, 5 Tenor, 6 Claims, 10 Delighted, 13 Arcadia, 14 Spigot, 15 Mingle, 17 Refer, 18 Crown

Word Ladder One solution is: TORN, TORT, PORT, PERT, PENT, RENT

Chain Gang: Laughing/Gas/Fire, Rubber/Band/Stand, Fire/Station/Master, Master/Key/Signature, Plaster/Cast/Off

19th February Cressey Close Joules Drive Cauldon Way Harecastle Bank

16 From the Registers

Funerals

15th December 16th January

Irving Spode Lockett Harold Summerfield

Aged 71 yrs Aged 86 yrs

Sidespersons for February

	9.15 am	6.00 pm
5 th	A. West, T. MacFarlane V. Ledward, S. Gerrard	P. Tunstall
12 th	D. Pickles, S. Hallam C. Wilding, J. Cooper	J. Cooper
19 th	P. Hipkiss, D. Wilson T. Lockett, J. Rowlands	D. Shemilt
26 th	M. Holden, G. Holden B. Hutchinson, M. Hutchinson	P. Tunstall
March 5 th	9.15 am P. Tunstall, A. West	6.00 J. Cooper

Flower Rota for February

T. MacFarlane, V. Ledward

- 5th Mrs M. Hillman
- 12th Mrs J. Both
- 19th Mrs L. Mason
- 26th Flower Guild



