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Please get your contributions for the July magazine to the editor by Friday 16th June

The month's go by, but Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. In June we celebrate the gift to the church of the Holy Spirit, who empowers us to proclaim this message!

Ed.

## **Cover Story**

Part of the pleasure in producing this series has been the discovery of all sorts of interesting bits of architecture. These houses in Oulton Road may not be as grand as some that we have featured, but look at that nice curvy brickwork above the windows. There's lots to see like this if you look around.

#### **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

June 2006

Su 4 Pentecost 9.15 am Parish Communion Sermon Text: 2 Corinthians 1:1-11 "God of comfort" 6.00 pm Evening Prayer at St John's Oulton Sermon Text: Matthew 6:5-18 "Heavenly Father"  Mo 5 9.00 am Prayers for the schools and young people 6.30 pm Cornerstone for teenagers meets at 13 Queen's 8.30 pm Square  Tu 6 9.30 am Christ Church First School Assembly 12.30 pm Seekers Club at Christ Church Middle School  Fr 9th - 11th Wolverhampton Bible Convention  Sa 10 7.30pm Prom Praise Victoria Hall (more details see notice board)  Su 11 Trinity 9.15 am Morning Prayer - Visit of the Lee family (CMS Philippines) see page 12 Sermon text: 2 Corinthians 1:12-22 "Our guarantee" 6.00 pm Holy Communion at St John's Oulton Sermon text: Matthew 6:19-34 "Heavenly treasure"  Mo 12 9.00 am Prayers for the schools and young people  Tu 13 10.30 am Holy Communion in church 12.30 pm Seekers Club at Christ Church Middle School  Th 15 1.20 pm Assembly at Christ Church Middle School  Sa 17 Oulton Church Cream Teas at Oulton House the home of the Wengers  Su 18 Trinity 1  9.15 am Parish Communion Sermon text: 2 Corinthians1:23-2:12 "New Covenant" 6.00 pm Evening Prayer at St John's Oulton Sermon text: Matthew 7:1-13 "Right judgement"	Sa	3		Prayers in church followed by Breakfast in the Centre			
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Turn to me and be saved, all you ends of the earth; For I am God, and there is no other.

Isaiah 45:22

	Мо	19		Prayers for the schools and young people Cornerstone for teenagers meets at 13 Queen's Square				
	Tu	20		Assembly at Christ Church First School Seekers Club at Christ Church Middle School				
	We	21	6.30 pm	Explore Teenage Enquirers Group at 13 Queens Square				
)			7.30 pm	Standing Committee				
)	Th	22	8.00 pm	20's Study Group at 27 Oulton Road				
	Su	25	Trinity 2					
•			9.15 am	Family Service - Joscelyne & Barron families				
				visiting see page 10				
				visiting see page 10 Sermon text: 2 Corinthians 2:13-16 "The aroma of Christ"				
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			9.00 am 6.30 pm 7.30 pm	Sermon text: 2 Corinthians 2:13-16 "The aroma of Christ"  Holy Communion at St John's Oulton Sermon text: Matthew 7:13-23 "True & False"  Prayers for the schools and young people Cornerstone for teenagers, at 13 Queen's Square PCC Meeting with the Bishop of Stafford -				

The following Activities take place every week in the Centre during school term time:

Monday Toddlers
Friday Little Fishes

9.30 am

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



## **Proceed With Caution**

The Bible encourages us to be cautious, but also enterprising. Cautious because, as any chemistry student in the laboratory knows, it's easier to make a stink than a sweet smell. As the Old Testament writer puts it: 'as dead flies give perfume a bad smell, so a little folly outweighs wisdom and honour' (Ecclesiastes 10:1). It takes far less to ruin something than to create it. So, we are to proceed with caution. Yet we're also to be enterprising: 'Whoever watches the wind will not plant; whoever looks at the clouds will not reap' (Eccl 11:4). Events can overtake our best plans: some things we can do nothing about, but also some things require firm decisions. We might say the conditions are rarely right for taking new initiatives, but we are to put our trust in God as we engage in a venture of faith. A recent example of this was setting up a youth worker post when we did not have all the conditions perfectly settled before we started. Yet, if we hadn't taken this step we might never have started.

So, what comes next? The Teacher reminds us: 'as you do not know the path of the wind, or how the body is formed in the mother's womb, so you cannot understand the work of God, the maker of all things' (Eccl 11:5). As we cannot clearly see the way ahead, we are to try various means to spread the gospel: 'Sow your seed in the morning, and at evening let not your hands be idle, for you do not know which will succeed, whether this or that, or whether both will do equally well' (Eccl 11:6). We are to be faithful in sowing the seed of the gospel and trust in God to work out His sovereign purposes.

My hope for this benefice is that whatever plans we make we will be a gospel centred and purposeful church. For what makes the church unique is the gospel the good news of forgiveness through Jesus Christ for all who repent. That means setting our sights on living by the gospel and to praying for the spiritually lost to come to know the great Shepherd and overseer of our souls. Paul wrote: 'I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow' (1 Cor 3:6). Everything depends on God's word, the seed of the gospel, which is God's powerful means of bringing about His purposes. We must patiently resist either being slaves to innovation, as if the presentation is more important than the



content; **or** blinded by the culture of instant success, by judging something according to whether it has an immediately observable result. What is popular doesn't necessarily serve the Kingdom of God. Our role is to be faithful in proclaiming the gospel message and praying for God to bring forth fruit in His time. So, let's sow the gospel message, water it with prayer and look to God to bring forth fruit.

Paul Kingman

### **Christ Church First School News**

The Summer term is always full of exciting outdoor activities where children not only enjoy greater freedom in physical exercise but also meet children from other schools developing friendships, sportsmanship and team spirit.



Therefore we see Year 4 taking parting an inter-school hockey tournament in Stafford and our football team has been in action playing matches against a number of local schools and also taking part in the Stafford and District Under 9s Football Tournament. We are also involved in the Small Schools' Cluster football and bucket ball competitions.

Children from Reception and Year 1 celebrated the Small Schools' Cluster "Bluebell Day" this month - a visit to Kibblestone Scout Camp provided a wonderful 'time out' to see the beautiful display of bluebells and to look at the many varieties of trees growing there - and of course an opportunity to meet friends made last year.

We continue to forge ahead with our links with local Pre-School Nurseries and those children visit us each term to share the morning together and thus become a little more familiar with school routines. The value of these links becomes evident when, as today, our new intake of children for September visited us - becoming 'Reception children' for the morning. Since many of them had visited before on several occasions, they met the challenge of their first morning with confidence and enjoyment (the same cannot always be said for some parents, for whom the occasion is infinitely more traumatic!). They will have seven weekly visits before the end of the Summer term, likewise the existing Year Reception children will become 'Year 1 children' at those time - a very successful transition for both sets of children.

At present our Recorder Group is practising hard for the Recorder Workshop, held annually at Walton Priory Middle School. We play some items en masse - having rehearsed them at our own schools and we are invited to prepare a solo item. The emphasis of the Workshop is on making music together and having fun - with the motto "if you play a wrong note make it a good one!"

## **Children's Society Boxes**



Thank you to all who gave so generously to the Society through the box collection. £294.38 has been sent to the Society towards their valuable work with runaway children.

If you are interested in having a box please let me know.

Sandra Morray

#### **FAIRTRADE**

There will be NO SALE of Fairtrade goods in June as our suppliers are on holiday. (Next sale - **Sunday 23rd July**)

Sheila

# Staffordshire Historic Churches Trust Sponsored Cycle Ride and Walk

Saturday 9th September 2006

9th September seems a long way off - but make a note of the date now!



How about cycling or walking round our area visiting churches and collect sponsorship for the number of churches you visit? There are churches involved all over the county but a list of those in this area and a map showing locations will be in church nearer the time. The sponsor money is equally divided between the Historic Churches Trust and our own church.

Could you cycle or walk to help fund the project for a youth worker?

To hear about the delights of cycling speak to Sandra Morray who has raised lots of money over the years – but don't expect to keep up with her. Ask Dorothy about a walking route around Stafford's churches.

Nearer the time Sponsor forms will be available from **Dorothy Wilson** and volunteers will be needed to spend an hour at our church to welcome visitors and sign forms.

### **Shallowford House**

Shallowford House is the Lichfield Diocesan Retreat House and Conference Centre at Norton Bridge near stone.

The Friends of Shallowford House need help. We are looking for new members to join us in our efforts to support and promote the facilities and activities of the House.

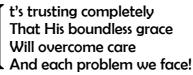
We are also in need of one or two Committee Members - in particular a new Secretary, as Georgina, who currently occupies this position, is shortly leaving the area for pastures new. Our Chairman, Mrs Dorothy Wilson, looks forward to hearing from you on **01785 812078**.

Secondly, and of equal importance, is a current shortage of staff in the House kitchen. Sylvia is unfortunately shortly due to go into hospital for an operation - and Kevin would love to be able to take his annual holiday break with a clear conscience.

If you might be interested in helping in any capacity - part-time, occasionally or permanently, please ring the Warden, **David Shemilt**, at the House office on **01785 760233** for more details.

# The Secret Of Living

The secret of living
Is learning to Pray It's asking the Father
For strength for the day!





t's walking by faith
Every mile that we plod,
And knowing our prayers
Bring us closer to God.

### **Book Review**

**Every December** in our Christmas letter to friends I always list my highlights of the year, including my favourite Christian book.

I have already chosen this year's, **Saddam's Secrets**, which I bought in April at Spring Harvest. It's the story of General Georges Sada, an Air Vice Marshall and military adviser to Saddam Hussein, the first Iraqi to fly a Russian MIG, the commander in charge of interrogating the 40 Coalition pilots downed during the 1991 war - and an Assyrian Christian.

In the book he tells how he:

 ${\bf B}$  Defied Saddam's son, Qusay, who wanted the captured 40 pilots killed.

B Advised Saddam Hussein against launching his top 98 fighter planes in a chemical attack on Israel - and how the president was stopped.

B Escaped death by 17 seconds when an American missile hit his base HQ at the very start of Operation Desert Storm.

 $\boldsymbol{B}$  Was invited to a meal by Saddam Hussein (the president usually eliminated his opponents by poisoning their food) and was told: "Seventeen times you have disagreed with my decisions (one challenge usually meant immediate death) - "and seventeen times you were right."

B Knows where Iraq's weapons of mass destruction are today, how they got there and who smuggled them out of Iraq.

B Became spokesman for the newly-elected prime minister of Iraq, director of the Iraqi Institute of Peace and a leader of the Evangelical church in Baghdad.

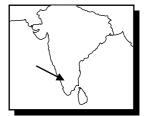
General Sada is one of the great Christian heroes of the last 25 years and I am just glad no one said to him: "How can you be a Christian and work for Saddam Hussein?" If he hadn't, the history of the world might have been totally different.

Saddam's Secrets is written by General Georges Sada with Jim Nelson Black and is published by Integrity Publishing for £7.99 (or you can join the queue to borrow it off me).

John Butterworth

# Joscelynes' Prayer Requests

Dominic, Clare and Erica have been serving at Hebron School in India over the past year. They have made a decision to end their contract this summer and come home.



The next weeks will be a little chaotic for them as they say their goodbyes and prepare to come

home. The early weeks will be spent with family relaxing and reflecting on the past months.

They are coming to Christchurch on 25th June to meet everyone again.

Praise God that Erica has made good friends as she plays with different children on site. Please pray that she says good 'goodbyes' and that God helps us to know how to help her do this being a two year old.

**P**Clare and Dominic also need to say good 'goodbyes'. Pray that we can get round to all the contacts we have made so we can part well. The leavers' party on the 8<sup>th</sup> June will help us do this.

Clare's students have now finished exams, papers are marked and reports written. Pray that remaining lessons are finished well and projects left at a satisfactory end. Pray that Dominic can finish the Hoz (School Health Centre) project he is on and apply effectively for jobs in the UK.

Pray for a safe return home. We are flying on the 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> June. We will visit Christ Church with the Barons on 25<sup>th</sup> June.

See you soon!

Our contact details are inside the back cover.

## Who are ... AICMAR?

AICMAR is a postgraduate biblical research library and resource centre that aims to advance evangelical scholarship, promote biblical preaching and apply biblical truth to

The African Institute of Contemporary Mission And Research is an organisation that we are considering supporting as a church.

contemporary African issues. Based in Butere, Kenya, it serves the academic and spiritual needs of theological colleges and church leadership throughout East Africa and beyond.

**Supporting scholarship** An evangelical and interdenominational organisation, AICMAR works in co-operation with others pursuing similar goals. It welcomes all scholars researching in the fields of Biblical Studies and Contemporary African Issues. It does not offer its own degrees but facilitates those taking degrees at other institutions by providing a research library and, in future, qualified supervision.

**Conferences** AICMAR runs a number of conferences which train and equip church leaders, and Forums to debate current African ministry needs:

**Library** The Chadwick Library is rapidly developing into a significant theological research library. Already being referred to as the 'Tyndale House of Africa' it is at the heart of AICMAR's research, study, public lectures and expository preaching conferences. To enable continued growth, in 2004 the library was moved into a new dedicated building capable of housing 30,000 volumes, together with the library's many academic journals and electronic resources.

A more secluded Reading Room will, when fully furnished, enable 25 readers and researchers.

You can find out more about AICMAR by visiting **www.aicmar.org** 

**Twent to the Conference** at the Armitage Centre in Manchester with Paul, Thomas and Dave Rowlands. (Paul, Dave and I went to the same event in 2004.) There were about 600 men, aged 18 to 80, all sharing the love of the Lord.

The theme of the Convention was 21st Century Holiness. The aim of the day was that we should leave at the end awestruck by what God has already done for us and committed to living in the way God wants us to.

**A Holy God** The first session, led by Bill Bygroves, a Liverpool pastor and chaplain of Liverpool FC, showed that we need to understand that God Himself is a holy God before we think about our own holiness. "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty: the whole world is full of his glory" (*Isaiah 6:5*).

**A Holy People** The second session was led by David Gibb, a vicar at the oldest church in Leyland. As Chairman of the North West Partnership, his aim is to see new churches planted in the region. He taught us that God's plan has always been to have a 'holy people' and "to live such good lives among the pagans, that though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us" (1 Peter 2: 12).

**Holy Possessions** After the lunch break, I attended the Seminar entitled 'Dirty Cash? (Holiness & Possessions)' (I am a member of the Finance Team!) We learned that to have a holy attitude to possessions is to have a Biblical Christian attitude to them. Is this the key? "Christians should share what they have so that every Christian has sufficient" (*Corinthians 8: 13 - 15*). To have money isn't wrong, it's a question of how it is used.

**Holy Life** The final session 'Holy me, an impossible dream' was led by Liam Goligher, a pastor in Richmond. His talk was based on Romans 13: 14, teaching us to live holy lives. "Clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature".

I certainly felt that the day was a marvellous experience, and the day was enhanced by meeting men from other locations and other denominations.

### **Meet our Mission Partners!**

Our CMS Mission Partners, Tim and Kate Lee and their three children, Rebekah, James and Grace have been living in Manila, Philippines since May 2003. Together with members of a local squatter church they have formed an organisation called Jigsaw Kids Ministries, which shares the love of Christ with children and families at risk from poverty and abuse. Currently Jigsaw works with over 800 children and their families, all of which come from the slums, squatter camps or street.



**Jigsaw Ministries** runs kids clubs for children 0 - 14, youth Bible studies, feeding programmes, school sponsorship, homework clubs and assists in medical/social emergency situations. One of Jigsaw's visions is to empower local people, therefore all 17 of their staff come from the communities where Jigsaw works.

**Tim's role** is that of director and facilitator. His main focus is on developing the projects to reach further into the communities, ensure sustainability, and train and encourage staff (most of whom have no formal qualifications). Tim trained as a primary teacher and has since worked in Sudan (where he met Kate), Brunei and the UK. He took a course in Development Studies in Birmingham whilst training to be a Mission Partner at Crowther Hall.

**Kate's main role** is administration and accounts. She also helps at some of the kids' clubs and assists in their planning of educational activities. Kate also trained as a primary teacher and, like Tim, worked in different countries before they felt God's calling to the Philippines.

James, Rebekah and Grace's role is to break down barriers with their smiles and blond hair and they are well loved by all the kids and staff that they come to in the Jigsaw centres. Seeing the Lees as a family has helped build relationships and trust within the communities where Jigsaw works.

The Lee family will be visiting Christ Church on Sunday morning 11<sup>th</sup> June - come and meet them!

Solution on Page 15

#### **Clues Across**

- 1 Sole agency holds pastureland. (3)
- 8 Roy and Ted's combined to make an end of it. (7)
- 9 Hint at pardon without old flames! (3)
- 10 Pray, I Name, may start. (5)
- 11 The outcome is space to take action. (5)
- 12 Observed without the man. (5)
- 14 Commie on the dole? Let's record that again! (5)
- 17 Loud? The quiet people? When they go without! (6)
- 18 Pole turns from beginning to end of day to spread out. (6)

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			11						
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			25						
26								27	
			28						
								29	

- 20 Follower of the prince, King changes supermarket date to time. (5)
- 23 Steel converted into monument. (5)
- 25 General allocation. (5)
- 26 Sounds like an elemental description of the scale. (5)
- 27 Shortly cite the card-shower. (3)
- 28 Clue, no beginning, roughly, to break in. (7)
- 29 Sleeping place returns once said for tea! (3)

#### **Clues Down**

- 2 Change in the middle to be capable. (5)
- 3 Prescribed benefit. (5)
- 4 Last words, back to front, with son in cage. (6)
- 5 & 7 Mercy, Ben! These guys are not what The Doctor ordered! (5,3)
- 6 Space returns to journalist when called. (5)
- 7 see 5
- 9 I seek advice about a type of tree. (7)
- 13 Turn out some victims included. (5)
- 15 Former partner Irish? living abroad. (5)
- 16 Seasoning from Hardy's sidekick? (7)
- 19 Gunners come in with the spirit. (6)
- 21 No 'sea' in a group of islands? That's daft! (5)
- 22 Once more arise in fortune. (5)
- 23 Holy man joins mating ritual purely for support! (5)
- 24 The bird could be, say, give back without the pot. (5)
- 26 Tuck in to half the evening meal. (3)

#### **CHAIN GANG**

Find a word to link each pair of words.

Air - Able

Angelic - Stalls

Soda - Pen

Training - Horn

Silver - Charge

# **Vestry & Annual Parochial Church Meetings**

## **Vestry Meeting**

Dave Rowlands and Phil Tunstall were elected as **Church Wardens** for the coming year, and Jeremy Cooper, Arthur Foulkes and Shirley Hallam were elected as **Deputy Wardens**. The Vicar expressed the appreciation of the church for the work of the Wardens and

The Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) were held in Christ Church Centre on 26th April; 29 people attended.

Deputies over the past year, and especially to Barry Hutchinson who is stepping down after eight years of faithful service.

#### **APCM**

We received **reports** from:

- Cecilia Wilding, PCC Secretary, on the past year in the church;
- Kevin Reynolds, Treasurer, on the financial year in the church. This
  was the first time in his four years that we ended the year in profit, in
  no small measure due to a large legacy to be used for the Centre.
  However, we need to work on our regular giving for the day to day
  finances of the church.
- Barry Hutchinson on behalf of the Wardens;
- Irene Gassor on the electoral roll. We have added four people to the roll in the past year;
- Shirley Hallam for the Stone Deanery.

The annual reports submitted by the Vicar and various church groups are included in a cream-coloured booklet available on the book stand in the Centre and at the back of church.

**PCC Members:** Jacqueline Abrahams, Dan Guerrard, Marylyn Hillman and Pete Mason were elected to serve for the next three years.

In conclusion, the Vicar spoke of his hope that we should be a Gospelcentred and purposeful church, cautious but also enterprising.

The next PCC Meeting is on Wednesday 12th July 2006 at 7.30pm



## **Streets of Prayer**

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



**4<sup>th</sup> June**Navigation Loop
Rangeley View
Barnton Edge
Anderton Way

18th June Cressey Close Joules Drive Cauldon Way Harecastle Bank 11<sup>th</sup> June
Bentley Close
Rendel Grove
Brindley Close
Rudyard Close

25th June Saltersford Rise Rolt Close Millennium Way Cameron Wharf

#### **LESSONS FROM LEGO**

We might understand life better if we each received our own LEGO kit at birth! When you are old enough you can learn a lot from LEGO, like the following:

All LEGO men are created equal (1.5625 inches tall), what they become is limited only by imagination. There is strength in numbers - when the bricks stick together, great things can be achieved. Disaster happens, but the pieces can be put back together again. Every brick has a purpose. Some are made for a specific

spot but every one will fit somewhere. No one is indispensable. If one brick is unavailable, another can take its place.

There are lessons for the church here. Unity is a biblical concept; when Christians stick together, great things can be accomplished. And every Christian has a purpose. As Paul describes it in I Corinthians 12, some of us are eyes, some are hands, still others are feet, but we all have a purpose and a role. But while it is true that 'no one is indispensable', each one of us is needed and the body suffers greatly if we don't do our part

The greatest comparison, though, is that we are indeed a building shaped by God's own hand. Every Christian is a part of that building - not a plastic building block, but a "living stone".



# From the Registers



15<sup>th</sup> May Richard David Thornton Aged 68

**Baptisms** 

14th May **Bethan Darlington Brace** 14th May **Rhiannon Darlington Brace** 

**Sidespersons for June** 

	9.15 am	6.00 pm		
a th	S Corrord I Cooper	Oulton		

S. Gerrard, J. Cooper T. MacFarlane, A West

11<sup>th</sup> S. Hallam, C. Wilding Oulton

G. Holden, M. Holden

T. Lockett, P. Tunstall 18th Oulton

D. Pickles, D. Wilson

**25**<sup>th</sup> P. Hipkiss, A. Greer Oulton

M. Hutchinson, B. Hutchinson

## Flower Rota for June

4<sup>th</sup> Mrs. A. Illidge Mrs. I. Gassor

11<sup>th</sup>

18th Mrs G. Banks

**25**<sup>th</sup> Mrs. S. Morray

