

Christ Church and People

30p



September

The Parish Magazine of
Christ Church Stone
Staffordshire

2006

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

THE PARISH TEAM

Vicar	Paul Kingman The Vicarage, Bromfield Court	812669
Parish Administrator	Irene Gassor	(Office) 811990
and Electoral Roll Officer		(Home) 814871
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	Email	christchurchcentre@pgen.net
Youth Worker	Thomas Nash	286551
Deaconess	Ann Butler	818160
Readers	David Bell	815775
	John Butterworth	817465
	Margaret Massey	813403
	David Rowlands	816713
	Michael Thompson	813712
	Cecilia Wilding	817987
Music Co-ordinators	Peter Mason	815854
	Jeff Challinor	819665
Wardens	Phil Tunstall	817028
	David Rowlands	816713
Deputy Wardens	Shirley Hallam, Arthur Foulkes	
Prayer Request List	Barbara Thornicroft	818700

CHRIST CHURCH CENTRE

Booking Secretary	Shelagh Sanders	(Office) 811990
		(Home) 760602

CHURCH SCHOOLS

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

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

Christ Church C.E.(Aided) Middle School, Old Road

Head: C. Waghorn B.Ed(Hons),DPSE,ACP,FRSA 354047

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Christ Church



and People

Please get your
contributions for
the October
magazine to us
by 15th
September

Cover Story:


These houses in Old Rd have an amazing amount of decorative detail, you really need to see them for yourself.

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

September 2006

Fr	1		
Sa	2		
Su	3	9.15 am 6.00 pm	Parish Communion & Commissioning of the Sunday School Leaders Sermon Text: Prov 6 " <i>What to learn from ants</i> ": Evening Prayer at St John's Oulton Sermon Text: Psalm 27 and 28 " <i>Our Stronghold</i> "
Mo	4	9.00 am	Prayers for the schools and young people of the town
Tu	5	11.30am	Fraternal Meeting in Centre
We	6	2.00 pm	Mothers Union, speaker Trixie Baxter. Joint meeting with Tittensor Branch
Th	7		
Fr	8		Swynnerton Flower Festival starts (8-12th Sept)
Sa	9	8.30 am 9.00 am All day	Prayers in church followed by Breakfast in the Centre Staffordshire Churches Trust Bicycle Ride
Su	10	9.15 am 6.00 pm	Morning Prayer and Baptism Sermon text: Prov 7 " <i>Youth Work</i> " Holy Communion at St John's Oulton Sermon text: Mark 6:1-13 "<i>Jesus rejected</i>"
Mo	11	9.00 am 6.30-8pm	Prayers for the schools and young people of the town Cornerstone 78 Oulton Rd
Tu	12	10.30am 7.30-9pm	Communion in Church Youth Club in Centre
We	13	7.30 pm	PCC meeting
Th	14	9.45 - 3.30 8.00 pm	Shallowford Quiet Day 20's Study Group at 27 Oulton Rd
Fr	15		
Sa	16	7.30 pm	Peter and Julia Farewell Party in the Centre
Su	17	9.15 am 6.00 pm	Parish Communion Sermon text: Prov 8 " <i>Wisdom's Appeal</i> " Evening Prayer at St John's Oulton Sermon text: Mark 6:14-29 " <i>John the Baptist Killed</i> "

Mo	18	9.00 am 6.30-8pm	Prayers for the schools and young people Cornerstone 78 Oulton Rd
Tu	19	7.30-9pm	Youth Club in the Centre
We	20		
Th	21	7.30 pm	Stone Deanery at Fulford
Fr	22		
Sa	23	10.30- 2.30 pm	Teaching Day at Christ Church on the Old Testa- ment
Su	24	9.15 am 6.00 pm	Family Service Sermon text: Prov 9 <i>"Two Bistros"</i> Holy Communion at St John's Oulton Sermon text: Mark 10:17-27 <i>"So rich yet so poor"</i>
Mo	25	9.00 am	Prayers for schools and young people
Tu	26	10.30 am 7.30-9pm	Communion in Church Youth Club in the Centre
We	27		
Th	28	8.00 pm	20's Study Group at 27 Oulton Rd
Fr	29		
Sa	30		
<p>The following activities take place every week in the Centre during term time:</p> <p>Monday Toddlers 9:30 am</p> <p>Friday Little Fishes 11:00 am</p> <p>Activities for young people take place in the Centre during the Sunday morning service each Sunday except the fourth Sunday of the month, which is the family service</p> <p>Climbers 3-7 years Explorers 7-11 years Pathfinders 11-14 years</p> <p>All children are welcome</p> 			

At the start of each new academic year we give thanks to God for those involved in the children's work at church. We commission them as a team in anticipation of the coming season on Sunday 3rd September. Those of us who have young children benefit directly from the time and care that they give to this ministry. In fact, most of those who now attend church in adult life will testify to how their own Sunday school teacher, or youth worker, helped them to learn about what it means to follow Jesus Christ. As the book of Proverbs puts it: *'train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it'* (Pr 22v6). That is our hope and prayer for the current children's church. Do come to encourage the team in their ministry.

However grateful we are for this ministry, we are not to abdicate responsibility for teaching our own children, grandchildren and godchildren about the Lord Jesus. On the contrary, the Bible places the spiritual well being of the family on the shoulders of the father and repeatedly urges parents to take their responsibility seriously. In particular the book of Deuteronomy repeats the exhortation to be mindful of the Lord's commands and promises to his people: *'teach them to your children and to their children after them'* (4v9), from one generation to the next. We have to be ready to answer at any moment and in any place: *'impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up'* (6v7 and 11v19). In order to answer children's questions we have to take action so that we can grow in maturity as Christian disciples. This involves praying for the preachers and study group leaders, eagerly learning from what the Bible teaches, beginning to read good Christian books that will take us from the shallows into the depths of knowing Christ, praying over the lessons and putting them into practice so as to live for Christ.

As a new autumn term begins I hope that you will take hold of opportunities to become more mature in Christ, so that you can teach and encourage those you love.

Paul Kingman.



The Ultimate Discovery

CHRISTIANITY EXPLORED

Christianity Explored is a 7-week course that covers the basics of the Christian faith. The course is suitable either as an introduction or as a refresher to the Christian faith.

We make no charge for the course which begins again on Thursday 5th October 2006 at Christ Church Centre, Christ Church Way, Stone.

Contact John and Jan Butterworth for details or see the website
www.christianityexplored.com

Mothers Union

The next meeting will be at 2 pm on Wednesday 6th Sept, when the speaker will be Trixie Baxter. This will be a joint meeting with the Tittensor Branch.

Duke of Edinburgh Service

As you may already know, Bethan Beauchamp and I are in the middle of our Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award, and we both have chosen to do the service part of the award at Christ Church.

Our aims are to help keep the church tidy, serve refreshments after selected services and help at some events being held in the church centre etc.

We hope to give help where it is needed, so if you find something that needs doing around the church, don't be afraid to ask us (as long as we are not *too* busy or on holiday!).

Tom Woodhead

Sat 9th **Staffordshire Historic Churches Trust** - sponsored cycle ride and walk

How about cycling or walking round our area visiting churches and collecting 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? Maybe the cycle ride could be the start of your autumn stay fit (or keep fit/get fit) programme. Have a look at your bike and talk it into taking you round the village churches! If you'd rather walk, there are plenty of churches in Stafford to walk round.

Sponsor forms will be available soon from **Dorothy Wilson**.

Volunteers will also be needed to spend an hour at our church to welcome visitors and sign forms on Saturday 9th September.

"Women of the Bible"

Friday 8th to Tuesday 12th
September

St Mary's Church, Swynnerton

Admission £3



The Friends of Shallowford House Quiet Day

Thursday 14th September 2006

9.45 a.m – 3.30 p.m

To be led by

Rev. Geoffrey Leonardi

("The Ministry of Hospitality")

Cost £14, coffee and lunch provided

Please book with the Warden, Shallowford House

Tel.01785 760233

E-mail warden@shallowfordhouse.freeserve.co.uk



THE KESWICK CONVENTION

Why has this Christian event lasted for so many years and grown to 3 weeks (11,000 people of which 2,000 were under 18 this year!)? Here are some brief reasons:

K: keeps going after 130 years and many are keen that it does so they can go again!

E: easy programme to join in whether you are a morning person or not.

S: superb scenery as it is in the heart of the Lake District.

W: word and worship are at the heart of the event.

I: incredibly cheap if you choose to go under canvas.

C: chill out time is abundant.

K: kids enjoy a fantastic holiday club!

This year we learnt about *'the church in the power of the Spirit.'* Next year the theme is: *'Unshackled? Living in outrageous grace.'* The dates and main speakers are as follows:

Week 1: 14-20 July [Alec Motyer].

Week 2: 21-27 July [Steve Brady].

Week 3: 28 July-3 August [Alistair Begg].

You can't book a place on the convention, but you do have to sort out your own local accommodation a.s.a.p. to avoid disappointment. Some of the campsites even get booked up by mid-January!

Paul Kingman.

Experiences of the Keswick Convention

Week 1 at Keswick was a great experience, but for me the prayer room called 2 – 4 – 6 which was held in the Bethesda chapel, was special as it showed a different way of praying. The 2 – 4 – 6 was the title because it meant one prayed from 2 – 4 in the afternoon, for six days.

The room was set up as 7 different sections as follows:-

1. As we enter the main door the first section is a board set against the wall with lots of newspaper cuttings depicting many different needs for prayer, for instance one cutting was about a website which has been set up telling teenagers how to commit suicide! We were invited to write a prayer and stick it on the board.
2. A big sheet was pinned to the wall. We were invited to sit at a table and write a prayer, draw a picture or write a poem for a family or friend who was not yet a Christian.
3. Was a corner draped with fine net on which were stuck the different names of God. We were invited to sit or kneel (on silk cushions) and just adore God in worship.
4. The next corner was similarly decorated, but with a question asking "Are you ready to meet Christ the bridegroom? Pinned onto the drapes were various verses, one of which was from Song of songs and another which said "Come unto me all you weary and heavy laden..." This was a very spiritually moving corner.
5. A wooden cross was on the floor in this section together with hammer and nails. There was paper and pen and we were invited to write down the things we wanted to nail to the cross, fold the paper and literally nail it to the cross.
6. In the middle of the room was a table with lumps of play-dough on it. Behind the table was a blackboard with the verse "I am the Potter you are the clay". We were invited to meditate on this verse and allow God to mould the play-dough in our hands to the shape he wanted.
7. The final stage was a table with bibles on it. On the wall was a request that we read a psalm of our choice and meditate on God's goodness, and the way He answers our prayers as we went round the different sections.

The 2 hours went very quickly, especially as there was very gentle music playing in the background. Also there were 2 leaders from the Keswick convention who were on hand to answer any questions if required.

⁹ Trinity Skills for Life

Dear Friends,

The Clifford Project Café



It is with sadness that I write to inform readers that our specialist work placement programme at Christchurch centre, namely Trinity café is ending on the 1st August 2006. I know that for our learners and our staff, our time at Christchurch has been most productive in all aspects of life skills training. Our learners have been able to access all sort of skills, and develop and enhance them over the time we have been able to use the centre. One of our outcomes or progression routes for our learners, is supported living going on to independent living, with all the skills needed in the home or house situation. We have been very blessed to have found such a live situation in Stone in the shape of a two bedroom house that we are renting for 1 year initially. This property will help us to create the ideal situation for teaching and developing these skills for our young people, so that when the time is right, they will progress into their own home situation, whether supported or independent. It's wonderful to know that some of our young people will be able to do the very things that we take for granted and that Christchurch has had some influence in that.

All of us at the project want to say a big thank you to all those people who supported us in the café.

We are all faced with changes in our lives, some good, some not so good, but we believe that this is a very positive step for the project and our young people.

We would like to continue our links with Christchurch, and we are certain that we can help with coffee morning or such like in the future. Our last Tuesday for the café will be August 1st 2006, and we hope that our friends and all who have supported us will visit on this day. Once again thank you for your help.

Mike West

10 Wedding of Dan Guerrard and Becky Cooper

We don't normally include wedding photos in the magazine, but Dan and Becky's wedding on August 12th was of particular interest to this journal. Becky and her Dad, Jerry, have edited this magazine for several years (in fact, Jerry has edited the magazine for many years).

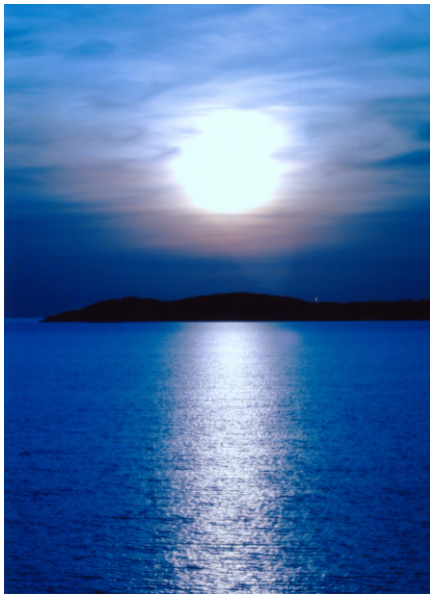
Despite ominous weather forecasts, Saturday the 12th was dry with sunny intervals.

In his address, Paul Kingman said that Dan chose this day for the wedding because "He bagged a great bird"!



We are reading Proverbs during morning services. Here is a quotation from Proverbs 31: 10

*A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies.
Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value.*



Light in the Darkness

When darkness falls and all is black
there seems no place to go.
If only you could see ahead
then peace of mind you'd know.
But God can shine a blinding light,
diminishing your woes.
He always wants to help you out,
throughout your highs and lows.

So look right past the darkness
to heaven's constant light-
even in your darkest times
it gives you perfect sight.

Mim Bell

Dear Friends

We are moored in a boatyard only 12 miles away from our starting point in Portsmouth, VA, where they have installed an air-conditioning unit in our boat. It's well over 100F here at present. We've talked to yachtsmen and taken their advice to stay up here until the end of September as they do have hurricanes and this marina is the safest place.

Across the road is St Thomas' Episcopal Church. The helpers tend to wear name tags with the job they do, so we were shown to a pew by MICHAEL, USHER and after the service FAY, GREETER came up and welcomed us to the church. The theme of the sermon on the first Sunday we attended was outreach and the assistant rector, a lady called Marni, spoke of how she wept the first time she entered an Episcopal church because she knew she had come home. I thought of you all at Christ Church and the warm feeling I get when I look around me at my church family.

There is a point in the service at St Thomas' where the rector asks if there is anyone with a birthday. Last week there was a boy about 10 and an elderly gentleman. They came up to the front and we said a prayer for them.. Then any wedding anniversaries? A young couple came up hand in hand and we prayed for them. The prayerbook had a special section of prayers for these occasions. I thought this was an excellent idea as it enhances the feeling that we are all one family.

Please remember Terry and me (and indeed Jim) in your prayers.

Monica Darlington

(Monica and Terry, together with Jim (a whippet) are making a voyage in their narrowboat along the south-east coast of the USA)

The African Pastors' Fellowship is an interdenominational fellowship of churches and individuals concerned for the growth of the Christian Church in Africa. It seeks to help through enabling and servicing pastors and their spouses to be more effective in their ministry. With the support of Christians in the UK, we provide local training courses, related literature in relevant languages and basic equipment for ministry such as books and bicycles. We aim to motivate the indigenous church to provide essential welfare and support for all pastors.

Literature

If an African pastor has a book to help him in his study of the Bible and sermon preparation, it will almost certainly be in an alien language (English or French), using thought forms very different from his own. In most languages of East Africa, even the most widely used, there are few, if any, commentaries available for rural pastors. APF is encouraging and sponsoring commentaries on New Testament books in Swahili for Tanzania, Kenya and DR Congo, Kirundi for Burundi, Kinyarwanda for Rwanda and Chichewa for Malawi. The last APF commentary on the New Testament in Swahili has just been printed. There is now a complete set of New Testament commentaries in Swahili. The last volume was printed early in 2005. They are being made available free of charge to college libraries in Kenya and Tanzania and sold at cost price to pastors and others. Ten commentaries are now available in Kirundi and one Kinyarwanda. Safari books and posters are available for children and Sunday school teachers.

Pastoral Care

Life in rural Africa is very difficult. Most pastors receive little if any stipend or salary. Food has to be grown, not bought - this takes the pastor's time away from ministry. School fees have to be found for the pastor's own family and those relatives' children for whom he is responsible. Medicines must be paid for. Clothes must be bought. Money is essential. APF is seeking to find ways to empower pastors' wives to maintain small scale income generating schemes which will provide the necessary ongoing finance for their families needs, at the same time releasing their husbands for ministry. Tailoring, trading, zero grazing cattle, tea kiosks, and milking goats are just some ideas being put into practice.

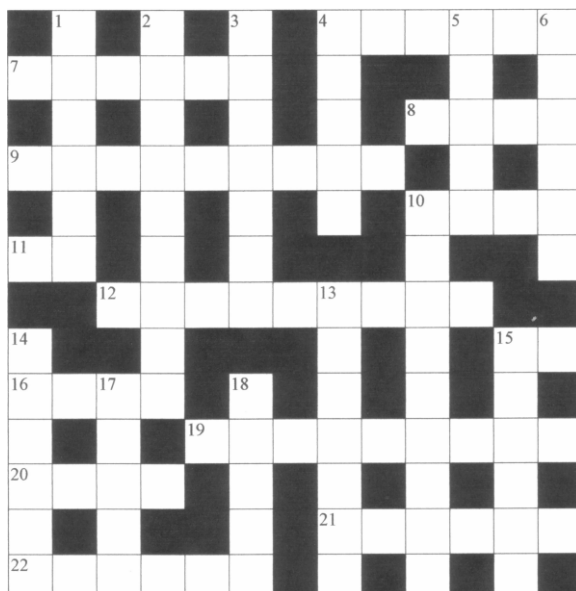
Transport

In rural Africa (at least 80% of the continent) a pastor may still be expected to minister in an area of 100+ square miles. Even today many do this on FOOT! Imagine the visiting and evangelism that just cannot get done! Imagine how often the pastor gets home to see his family! APF seeks to raise funds in the UK to help pastors in East Africa to buy their own bicycles. Normally the pastor contributes to the cost so that he feels the bike is really his own.

(As a church, we have supported the African Pastors' Fellowship for many years. To know more, about their work and mission, look the Fellowship up on the Internet – <www.africanpastors.org>)

Crossword by 'Oddjob'*Solution on Page 15***Clues Across**

- 4 Note angle to leave in suspension. (6)
 7 Example, in tibia perhaps, orders departure. (6)
 8 Result of injury, not by striking? (4)
 9 Permit a man in load required foresight. (4,5)
 10 Injure alternative to Bush, perhaps. (4)
 11 Could be I am debilitated by this. (2)
 12 Too much in the smithy - name passed from memory. (9)
 15 Find females in the midst of sewing. (2)



- 16 Silicon micro oven? (4)
 19 Drivers back to back round the circuit (not started), in this? (6,3)
 20 One less than an exact copy. (4)
 21 Crones surround soldier with a dish of offal. (6)
 22 Rid tub over muddy water. (6)

Clues Down

- 1 To be Brighton's partner is morally necessary. (6)
 2 Gibraltar and Fastnet take Ages to make music. (4,5)
 3 I sing (drunkenly) with teeth engaged. (7)
 4 The Spanish take a day about a hold-up. (5)
 5 Repetition heard after note may be climbing up the wall! (5)
 6 Device is empty ball between two measures. (6)
 10 Raw measure (lost sheep?) a sweet thing. (9)
 13 Got hint perhaps of this evening. (7)
 14 Exercises for the head, we hear, knock it into shape! (6)
 15 Melt melt on condition of possible event. (4,2)
 17 Pub has queen on the inside. (5)
 18 Confronted fact cut short by editor. (5)

The PCC met on Wednesday 12 July 2006 and the following matters were reported on, discussed and/or decided.

- Following the visit of the Bishop of Stafford to the special meeting of the PCC on Monday 26 June 2006 to talk about **Mission Action Plans**; the PCC set a new date of Wednesday 11 October 2006 at which we will be developing our action plan to progress our work for children and youth.
- There will be a **Gift day** on Sunday 29 October 2006. A letter will be circulated from Sunday 24 September to inform the church about the projects that we want to financially support. The content of this letter will be decided at the next meeting of the PCC which has been brought forward to Wednesday 13 September.
- The Technology Task Group have received an anonymous donation of a laptop for use with the projector. Technical instruction in the use of this equipment will be provided to anyone wanting to know how to use it. If you are interested, please contact Jacqueline Abrahams or Mike Thompson.
- The Centre Management Task Group have been promoting the centre to local nurseries for children's party bookings. It is also possible to book the centre for more general party use. If you are interested, please contact our centre booking secretary, Shelagh Sanders.
- Clare Nash has been appointed to take on administration duties. This is a growing area of work. Irene Gassor is currently convalescing and making a good recovery.
- The offertory collection during the service is to be stopped as a large number in the church give directly through their bank. Plates will be available at the doors should anyone wish to make a donation on the day.

The next PCC meeting is on Wednesday 13 September 2006.



ROADS FOR PRAYER

Please pray for people living in these streets of our parish

3rd September

The Avenue
Trent Road
Tunley Street
Trinity Drive

10th September

Airdale Grove
Airdale Road
Airdale Spinney
Cross Street
Lotus Court

17th September

Nicholls Lane
Old Road
Old Road Close
Oulton Cross

24th September

Oulton Rd
Oulton Mews
Princes Street
Queens Square
York Street



Solution to the Crossword

	B		R		M		D	A	N	G	L	E
B	E	G	O	N	E		E			E		M
	H		C		S		L		S	C	A	B
L	O	O	K	A	H	E	A	D		K		L
	V		G		I		Y		G	O	R	E
M	E		R		N				R			M
		F	O	R	G	O	T	T	E	N		
S			U				O		E		W	I
C	H	I	P		F		N		N		H	
U		N		R	A	C	I	N	G	C	A	R
L	O	N	E		C		G		A		T	
P		E			E		H	A	G	G	I	S
T	U	R	B	I	D		T		E		F	

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

August 13th Albert Charles Ingram and Grace Elizabeth Ingram

Weddings

July 29th Anthony Edmondson and Kirsten Rose

August 5th Andrew Best and Rosalind Marriott

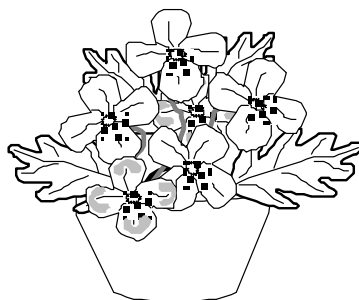
August 12th Dan Guerrard and Becky Cooper

SIDESPERSIONS FOR SEPTEMBER

	9.15 am	6.00 pm
3rd	S. Hallam, D. Wilson M. Holden, G. Holden	Oulton
10th	P. Tunstall, C. Wilding J. Rowlands, D. Pickles	Oulton
17th	A. Greer, V. Ledward T. MacFarlane, A. West.	Oulton
24th	P. Hipkiss, S. Hallam B. Hutchinson, M. Hutchinson	Oulton

FLOWER ROTA

3rd	Mr & Mrs I. Hawley
10th	Mrs E. Cooke
17th	Mrs S. Hallam
24th	Mrs E. Woodhead



Deanery Synod Reps Mrs S Hallam, Mr I Hawley

P.C.C. Members	Mr J Challinor, Miss B Cooper, Mrs I Gassor Mr D Guerrard, Mrs M Hillman, Mr T Lockett Mrs E Mason, Mr P Mason, Mrs D Wilson Mrs E Woodhead
Secretary	Jacqueline Abrahams.....817020
Treasurer	Kevin Reynolds.....851595
Envelopes	Ian Hawley.....811646
Gift Aid	

GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

Climbers	Sandra Morray.....286093
Explorers	Estella Woodhead.....761659
Pathfinders	Enid Bell.....815775
Banner Group	Jeanette Rowlands.....816713
Church Missionary Boxes	Barbara Ewart.....760352
Flower Guild	Marylyn Hillman.....815936
Men's Fellowship	Mike Thompson.....813712
Missions Secretary	Cecilia Wilding.....817987
Mothers' Union	Irene Gassor.....814871
Prayer Group	Jeanette Rowlands.....816713
Parents & Toddlers (Mon 9.30 – 11.15am)	Sandra Morray.....286093
Friday "Little Fishes" (Fri 11am – 1.30pm)	Cecilia Wilding.....817987
Uniformed Organisations	Janet Smith.....815939
Rainbows	Mon 4.55pm
Brownies	Mon 6.00pm
Guides	Wed 7.00pm

THE MAGAZINE TEAM

Editor	(Christchurch_mag@yahoo.co.uk)	
Mission News	Cecilia Wilding	817987
& Prayer Diary		

Contributions by post: The Editor, c/o Christ Church Parish Office, Christ Church Centre, Christ Church Way, Stone, Staffs ST15 8ZB

A Fruitful Bible Study

I have heard of gooseberries as big as tennis balls grown in the north of England. Never-the-less though ours cannot compare in size (grapes of the north being more accurate) it has been a good harvest. The blackcurrants have also done well and the hedgerows are groaning with blackberries.

These fruits, though, are quite different from those generally eaten in the Middle East and familiar to Bible people.

Dates and raisins are mentioned in 2 Samuel 6 v.19 and 1 Chronicles 16 v. 3 where the Ark of the Lord was carried into Jerusalem and David had a party. He gave a cake of dates and a cake of raisins to everybody in the crowd who watched the procession. (Sounds like Christmas!)

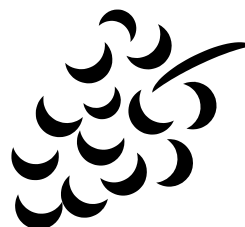
The story of the barren fig tree in Mark 11 is one of many references to figs in the Bible. Jesus cursed the fig tree when it had no fruit on it and the next day the tree was withered. Peter remarked on this and Jesus used the example of the tree as a lesson about the power of prayer.

Grapes are another fruit that has many mentions in the Bible. In 1 Corinthians 9 v.7 the question is asked: "Who plants a vineyard and does not eat of it's grapes?" In ordinary life we expect to be supported from our work so those whose full-time work is the gospel should be able to be supported from their work.

Of course grapes were important for the production of wine, an essential drink in a land without the choice of drinks we have today. There are many references to wine throughout the Bible, one of the most well known being in John chapter 2 when Jesus changed the water into wine and averted disaster at a wedding.

Olives are a fruit readily associated with the warmer climates of Mediterranean countries and they have many mentions in the Bible. The shrewd manager of Luke 16 used olive oil as a bargaining tool with his master's debtors. Perhaps the next time we reach for a bottle of olive oil it would be good to remind ourselves of Jesus' parables so rooted in daily life.

Enid Bell



Subscriptions

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