

# Christ Church and People December 2015

# 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  $9.15~\mbox{am}$ 

(see page 18 for details)

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Vicar Paul Kingman 812669

The Vicarage, Bromfield Court

Youth and Children's Kieran McKnight 600734
Worker 07731984755

Electoral Roll Officer Irene Gassor 814871

Parish Office Christ Church Centre, Christ Church Way, Stone, Staffs ST15 8ZB

Email office@christchurchstone.org

811990

Deaconess (Retired)Ann Butler818160ReadersDave Bell815775

Helen Bowes 812317
David Rowlands 816713
Michael Thompson 813712
Cecilia Wilding 817987

Music Co-ordinators Pete Mason 815854

Sue Kingman

Wardens Andy Stone 07749 766353
David Beauchamp 286526

Deputy Wardens Phil Tunstall, 817028

**CHRIST CHURCH CENTRE** 

**Booking Secretary** Kate or Irene (Office) 811990

#### **CHURCH SCHOOLS**

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

Head: Mr N. Chesters 354125

Christ Church Academy, Old Road

Principal: Mr C. Wright MAEd 354047

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and People

Please get your contributions for the January magazine to us by the 15th December

Cover Picture:-George Holden's view of the church at night

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

# December 2015

Tue	1	11:00am 12:30pm	Coffee before midweek service; service at 10:30 Advent Windows start- see page 13 Seekers Club Youth Club yrs 9-13
Wed	2		Christ Church First School assembly KingZone yrs 2-4
Thu	3	1:20pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	4	7:30pm	Guides Kenya Trip presentation
Sat	5		Prayer meeting followed by breakfast Advent Evening
Sun	6	4:30pm	Communion Matthew 9:35-38 "The other 'Lord's Prayer'!" Bereans Bible study Prayers for Christmas events
Mon	7	6:30pm	Breathe yrs 5-8
Tue	8	12:30pm 3:00pm	Coffee before midweek service; service at 10:30 Seekers Club Autumn House carols Youth Club yrs 9-13
Wed	9		Christ Church First School assembly KingZone yrs 2-4
Thu	10		Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	11		
Sat	12		
Sun	13	4:00pm	Morning Prayer. John 1:1-5 "Triumphant Light!" Carols at Moddershall Isaiah 11 "A branch from Jesse" Bereans Bible study
Mon	14	-	Breathe yrs 5-8
Tue	15	6:00pm	Coffee before midweek service; service at 10:30 Christ Church First School Nativity Youth Club yrs 9-13

Wed	16	6;00pm	Christ Church First School assembly KingZone yrs 2-4 Christ Church Academy concert
Thu	17		Christ Church Academy assembly Stone Choral Society
Fri	18		Christ Church First School service Christ Church Academy service
Sat	19	4:00pm	Christingle
Sun	20		Communion John 1:6-8 "A witness to the light" Carol service Isaiah 7:13-17 "The Immanuel sign"
Mon	21		
Tue	22	10:00am	Coffee before midweek service; service at 10:30
Wed	23		
Thu	24		Advent Window Opening at Christ Church Late night Carols and Communion John 1:1-14
Fri	25	9:15am	Communion John 1:9-13 "How to become God's child"
Sat	26		
Sun	27	11:00am	Joint service at St John's, Oulton John 1:14-18 "The Word made flesh"
Mon	28		
Tue	29		
Wed	30		
Thu	31		

The recent events in Paris have highlighted once again the fragility of life. Scores of lives were ended by an organized campaign of terror that has left many grieving. Hundreds more lives were seriously injured and left in shock. It was indeed a dark day.

But, sadly, it was not the only dark day of the year. We could list an array of dreadful events: wars waged for years, causing massive destruction; the violent treatment of prisoners; the oppression of whole nations under a dictatorship; the cruel trafficking of people suffering inhumane conditions; the merciless killing of Christians for not recanting their faith in Jesus Christ, so that it is said more are dying as martyrs in the twenty-first century than have in the previous twenty.

The world needs help! At Christmas we celebrate this. Out of God's love for the world he sent his one and only Son to be its rescuer. How he is received divides the world, but determines everything: "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God" (John 3v17-18). The right thing to do is to receive Christ, which is neither simply a personal lifestyle choice, nor a private opinion to be dismissed from the public arena. It was a world-changing event and remains a life-changing event.

John's theme of dark and light comes to the fore as he explains the consequence of this: "And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God" (John 3v17-21). The only way out of the dark is to step into the light.

As a reader of this article will you come into the light? Join us to explore Christmas: come with your mind alert and investigative powers engaged. Consider Jesus and how to respond to the one who came from the Father, was born in Bethlehem, lived in Galilee and has impacted the world.

Happy Christmas. Paul Kingman

Sat 19 <sup>th</sup>	4.00 p.m.	Christmas craft & Christingle service
Sun 20th	9.15 a.m. 5.00 p.m.	Holy Communion Nine lessons & carols by candlelight
Thu 24th	11.00 a.m. 11.00 p.m.	Advent Window No.24 opening Late night Carols & Holy Communion
Fri 25 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 a.m.	Christmas Day Holy Communion
Sun 27 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 a.m.	Joint service at St John's, Oulton.
Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup> January	11.00 a.m.	First Communion of the New Year

# **Sermon series for December**

# Mornings at Christ Church, Stone & Oulton:

In *Kingdom Prayers* we will focus on *the Lord's Prayer*, not as a formula to repeat or mantra to chant, but as a model to guide our prayers. We will also give attention to *the other Lord's Prayer*, which encourages us to pray for workers to fulfill God's mission.

Then we will begin to look at the amazing introduction by John who wants us to <u>meet Jesus</u>. His profound introduction to the life and times of Jesus, reminds us that the heavenly one became a man on earth, so that we on earth can have access to heaven.

# Moddershall & midweek:

**Parables of the Kingdom**, gives us an opportunity to reconsider how we are living in the light of the end of this age. Only Jesus knows, so let's listen to him!

I enjoy traditions surrounding Christmas but it is a pity if sentimentality hides the meaning of the Incarnation – God coming to live on earth because of love for each and every one of us. Not a 'gushing' or 'gooey' kind of love but love that is for the whole of creation and based on mutual honour and respect. A love that is not about maintaining the status quo but about regime change (as Bishop Gordon reminded us at our 'Goodness of God' Celebration).

Mary, for all her meekness and humility and willing obedience to God, understood the earth-shaking consequences of the Incarnation when the powerful would be brought down from their thrones and the lowly lifted up – the hungry filled with good things and the rich sent away empty! No wonder a child once wrote in an exam: 'When Mary heard she was to be the mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta'!

This summer the political commentator Owen Jones was made an Honorary Doctor of Staffordshire University and delivered the most inspiring speech to new Graduates that I have ever heard on such an occasion. Irrespective of whether you agree with his political views, he made the important point that social change and improvement comes not from government but from people sharing a vision and working together. To quote a famous 'left wing' politician, Tony Benn: 'Social change is a combination of two things: the burning flame of anger at injustice, and the burning flame of hope for a better world'.

That so many people elected Jeremy Corbyn as the new Leader of the



Labour Partv indicates dissatisfaction with how things are in our country where a small percentage are getting wealthier but the majority are getting poorer and many people in work are still unable to manage on their low wages. This is not a party political point but a reality - if you don't believe me, spend a morning with some of the wonderful members of our churches across the Diocese running the ever increasing number of food banks.

The media tell us that this sense of dissatisfaction is greatest among the young like those to whom Owen Jones was speaking at the Graduation. Yet they are missing from many of our Churches. It is important that this Christmas when we know we have people of all ages in worship whom we do not see at other times of the year, that they are helped both to enjoy the traditions and nostalgia but also to be given some understanding of what it actually means to have the 'Word made flesh' and the 'true light that enlightens everyone, coming into the world'.

Christians have those twin 'burning flames' of anger at injustice and hope for a better world and are called to be witnesses to the Goodness of God by working together to create a more loving and caring society that is focused on the needs of all people. This is not about the policies of political parties but starts with you and me – how we relate to one another and our willingness to acknowledge that the love of the baby of Bethlehem is for ALL people. This means something more than just candles and carols – it means the Church DOES have something to say to 21st Century Britain and CAN be a home for all who want to see a fairer society and more justice in the world.

The meaning of the Incarnation is so powerful perhaps people need to cloak it in sentimentality because otherwise it is a radical message too hot to handle!

A Happy, Peaceful and Challenging Christmas to you all!

Geoff Annas, Bishop of Stafford

# **Church magazine howlers** (found by Ron Fox)

Bertha Belch, a missionary from Africa, will be speaking tonight at Calvary Methodist. Come hear Bertha Belch all the way from Africa.

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Don't forget to bring your husbands.

The peacemaking meeting scheduled for today has been cancelled due to a conflict.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What Is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.

During November, two of the sermons were based on Psalms 9 and 10, -referred to as "Acrostic Psalms", meaning each verse started with A, B, C, D...and so on, according to my dictionary, lines of writing in which the first or last letters of each line spell a word or saying.

This acrostic was sent to me by my Scottish Uncle many years ago, but still treasured today. The first letters of each line spell out my maiden name

Give me your heart said the Lord Love eternal shall be your reward Ask of Him heavenly joy and bliss Daily my child He'll give you this Yield in obedience, make Christ your choice Surrender your life to Him and rejoice

Taste of the goodness that God can give Use all your talents, for Jesus live Delight in the Lord, dear Gladys, I say Open your heart to Him today Rejoice in the Lord as you go on your way

Gladys Farrar

Prayer for the week

Slow me down, Lord, I'm going too fast, I can't see my brother when he's walking past. I miss a lot of good things day by day, And I don't know a blessing when it comes my way.

# **More Church magazine howlers**

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

Attend and you will hear an excellent speaker and heave a healthy lunch.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

For those who have not heard of Neil Baldwin he is a Newcastle man in his late sixties, with learning difficulties whose remarkable life was last year portrayed in a TV film that has won numerous awards including two BAFTAs.

Dave Rowlands met Neil recently at a church function and found out that Neil was to be speaking at a church in Wallasey that happened to be a church that David knew well. No sooner had Dave heard this than a plan was formulated to organise a trip from Christchurch and twelve souls embarked in a minibus for the Wirral on Sunday 18 October 2015.

We left Stone at 2pm prompt and arrived in the Wirral after 90 mins, which was clearly too early so drove to the seaside resort of New Brighton where we disembarked for a walk along the promenade and The town had at one time been a popular summer some lunch. destination for Merseysiders and had also been the location of a tower larger than that of Blackpool (so David said). The sea front was clean and tidy with lots of eateries so we departed for Wallasey fed and watered and arrived at the St Hilarys with plenty of time to spare and were able to grab front row seats.

Neil was already there and Geoff and Marylyn Hillman were able to have a quick chat with him. Marylyn had worked at Keele and of course knew him from his days as a self appointed welcomer and football team manager, and he had been the recipient of an honorary doctorate for his voluntary work for students.

The format of the evening was that the vicar Rev Alan Ward, would question Neil on his life and between questions scenes from Marvellous were shown on a large screen behind them. It was interesting for those who had already seen the film as well as those new to the story. Neil talked of time touring as a clown known as Nello with the circus and then his ten years as Stoke City FC kit man and unofficial morale lifter and how Lou Macari described him as the best signing that he had ever made. Neil talked of his devout faith and how he had managed to attend many important church events such as the consecration of Archbishop Justin Welby. It seemed that his secret was simply to want to do things and not see hurdles. No one who has seen the film will doubt his stories and to prove it he produced a photograph of he and Archbishop Welby together smiling at the camera on the momentous day. (continued)

He did not mention it but I have heard the story of him being seen on the umpires boat following Oxford and Cambridge boat crews at the boat race. The church was full and he was applauded after each answer and everyone warmed to the story of Neil Baldwin. The thanks were given at the conclusion by Bishop Keith of Birkenhead.

Some friends of David and Jeanette were kind enough to invite us round to their house afterwards for tea and cakes. (We were told that it was just around the corner but since the driver got himself lost it would have been quicker to go back to New Brighton). It was a lovely warm gesture to have a mini bus full of boisterous strangers round and we all were lifted ready for our journey home.

Barry Hutchinson

# **Autumn Watch Viewing - 2015**

Having marvelled at our trees changing colour into red, golden yellow and orange, I was ready to turn to the BBC's Red Button by viewing Autumn Watch Extra's rolling programme.

Over four days during the first week in November the Autumn Watch team reported from 'Caelaverrock' the Wildfowl and Wetland Trust Reserve in the stunning southwest of Scotland.

The swans were among the first arrivals after flying non stop to avoid predators, taking around five and a half hours from Iceland. Having landed on the Whooper Pond it proved to be their favourite spot.

One programme brought up the subject of 'bird health' among our garden birds.

The green finch population are liable to succumb to a disease which affects their ability to swallow. It was found that an effective way to help them is to clean their bird feeders, preferably once a week.

Another day I watched the bird table on the reserve and was delighted to see a good number were feeding and looking good, dominating the other birds by shoving them out of the way.

All the birds are fed and kept safe every day as the reserve prepares for winter.

**Psalm 91 verse I** reminds us that our God has a place of safety available for us. 'He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.'

Ann B.

To Cecilia and everyone at Christ Church Stone

We are pleased to say Enna has finally received her high power glasses and is able to see clearly for the first time in her life. Thank you for your prayers and support. Praise God for the funds raised for a new jigsaw van. A new van costs £10,000 and the amount raised so far is £3251. Thanks to Kate Lee and Mandy Latimer for the £2000 they raised for running a half marathon.

Praise God for the start of the Jigsaw Mothers sewing project which started in October in Area 4. Already the ladies have made some simple bags and clothes and faith, hope and love are growing.

We thank God for prayers answered for Junie who was on the brink a of child labour. Through prayers and the wonderful work of Jigsaw he is now safely home and going to school through the Jigsaw school sponsorship programme.

We praise God that Jenna has received the funds she needs to have her operation. Please continue to pray for her as the doctors prepare her for her major operation on the 25th November.

Pray for stamina for the Jigsaw staff as they prepare and run over 25 Christmas parties for around 1500 children over the next few weeks. Pray we receive enough funds to give each child a hot meal and a Christmas gift, fun and games and share the love of Jesus.

Thank you for all your continued love and support and we wish everyone at Christ Church a peaceful and happy Christmas.

Tim, Kate, James, Rebekah and Grace

# More Church magazine howlers

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community. Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say "Hell" to someone who doesn't care much about you.

Miss Charlene Mason sang "I will not pass this way again," giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

The Rector will preach his farewell message after which the choir will sing: "Break Forth Into Joy."

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

The Brazilian Impact Trip took place 1-14 October, 2015. The team that traveled to Brazil from Europe consisted of 13: Stephen Bell, Tabita Bell, Johan Lukasse, Ron Anderson, Brenda Anderson, Francisco Gross, Kostya Bakanov, Viktor Krotyk, Jonatan Vukov, Zoltan Nyul, Akos Bukovszky, Viola Bukovszky, Stephanie Cervantes.

The purposes of the trip were to make contacts and recruit short term (ST) missionary evangelists to come to the Balkans for a term of two years, to build relationships with Brazilian pastors and churches, and to encourage the work of ECM in Brazil.

The ECMBrazil team (Elecir, Ana, etc.) set up over 100 meetings in the greater Rio de Janeiro, Recife, and Salvador areas in:

- " Church services (a variety of denominations)
- " with groups of pastors
- " at seminaries with students and leaders
- " at youth events

The speakers were involved in a variety of ways, from personal conversations to preaching, and the Balkan Project was presented in each place along with an invitation to get involved. These were very productive events, and the response was very encouraging.

There were three main points of involvement people had the opportunity to commit to:

- " Praying (for Balkan countries and workers there)
- " Giving (financially supporting missionaries sent out from Brazil)
- " Going (to be one of the two-year short term evangelists)

As a result of the efforts during the two weeks the team was in Brazil, there were around 100 young people who indicated interest in coming as missionary evangelists to the Balkans. Close to 80 who said they would be willing to support the ST workers with finances. And 300 who committed to pray on a regular basis for the people of the Balkans, the project, and the missionaries working there.

The next few months will be busy ones for ECMBrazil as they work to process these many commitments to be involved, conduct interviews with those interested in going to the Balkans, and continue to develop the connections made during this time. Pray for wisdom, energy, and perseverance for them.

Stephen Bell

Day	Creator	<b>Host Location</b>
Tues 1st	Manor Hillbillies	Katherine House shop
Wed 2nd	Dunoon	Dunoon
Thu 3rd	Oaktree Farm	Petals
Fri 4th	Trinity Skills	Gr8 Kitchenware
Sat 5th	Hub Craft Group	Stone Library
Sun 6th	First Steps Nursery	Crown and Anchor
Mon 7th	Mumbles Nursery	Cats Protection
Tues 8th	St Dominic's Primary	Lock-keepers Salon
Wed 9th	Walton Priory School	Donna Louise shop
Thu 10th	Pirehill School	John Burton Solicitors
Fri 11th	St Michael's School	Zeta
Sat 12th	Brownies	Cancer Research shop
Sun 13th	St Dominic's Priory	Royal Exchange
Mon 14th	Oulton First School	Mayfair Dry Cleaners
Tues 15th	Oulton Abbey Play- group	Follwells
Wed 16th	Christ Church Academy	Shear Genius
Thu 17th	Alleyne's School	Home and Colour
Fri 18th	Birchill and Watson	Birchill and Watson
Sat 19th	Dezign Room	Dezign Room
Sun 20th	Women's Institute	Stone Pharmacy
Mon 21st	Giggles and Wiggles	Flavours of Flora
Tues 22nd	Smarty's Nursery	Outdoor Pursuits
Wed 23rd	Meaford Nursery	Maison Jacqueline
Thu 24th	Christ Church	Christ Church

# Christ Church 130 years ago

# Re-opening of the Organ

A Special Service was held on Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, on the occasion of the re-opening of the Organ. Prayers were read by the Vicar and the Rev A. Pearman: the Lesson by the Rev. N. Poyntz. Rural Dean and the Archdeacon, Sir Lovelace T Stamer, preached a very appropriate sermon upon Psalm xlvii. 7. The offertories then, and on Sunday amounted to £13, which has been given to the Church Restoration Fund. At the conclusion of the Service, Dr Taylor, F.O.O (of St. Mary's, Stafford), gave an Organ Recital which was listened to with much interest and pleasure by the congregation.

The Organ, as our readers are aware was originally given by Mrs. Foden, and it is through her liberality that the several additional stops have been placed in the organ, and the extra cost of the oak frontage to the chancel has been defrayed.

# Christ Church 10 years ago (Extract from the magazine) Top 10 Reasons why God created Eve (by Eve)

- ¿ God worried that Adam would always be lost in the garden because men hate to ask for directions.
- <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> God knew that Adam would one day need someone to hand him the TV remote. (Men don't want to see what's **on** television, they want to see **what else** is on!)
- $\frac{1}{2}$  Adam would never buy a new fig leaf when his wore out and would therefore need Eve to get one for him.
- <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> Adam would never make a doctor's appointment for himself.
- » Adam would never remember which day was Bin day
- <sup>o</sup> If the world was to be populated, men would never be able to handle childbearing.
- <sup>1</sup> As "Keeper of the Garden," Adam would never remember where he put his tools.

The scripture account of creation shows Adam needed someone to blame his troubles on when God caught him hiding in the garden.

- · As the Bible says, "It is not good for man to be alone!"
  - ¶ When God finished the creation of Adam, He stepped back, scratched His head and said, "I can do better than that."
  - ¶ It's interesting that the only time that God said, "It is not good" during His creation was when man was alone.

# REGISTERS AND ROTAS

# FUNERALS

14th October	Leslie John Myatt	Age 78
26th October	Charles Robert Osbourne	Age 85
27th October	Elizabeth Anne Oldham	Age 43

# SIDESPERSONS ROTA

	AM	
6 <sup>th</sup> December	J. Abrahams	D. Pickles
	G. Holden	K. McKnight
13th December	G. Latos	D. Shemilt
	G. Leithead	P. Roberts
20th December	C. Wilding	D. Wilson
	P. Kelly	C. Reeve
24th December	A. Stone	D. Beauchamp
	P. Tunstall	G. Holden
25th December	K. Thompson	P. Roberts
	D. Davies	D. Shemilt
27th December	combined serv	rice at Oulton
	4	



**Every Sunday** Flower Guild

# ROADS FOR PRAYER

6th December	13th December
Airdale Grove	Nicholls Lane
Airdale Road	Old Road
Airdale Spinney	Old Road Close
Cross Street	Oulton Cross
Lotus Court	York Street



27th December Navigation Loop Rangeley View Barnton Edge Anderton Way/View







# **Groups and Activities**

**Deanery Synod Reps** Helen Bowes, Helen Kennedy

**P.C.C. Members** Kate Latham, Irene Gassor, Phil Tunstall

Shelagh Sanders, Pete Mason, George Holden Angela Burton, Marylyn Hillman, Pam Shields Kevin Reynolds, Estella Woodhead, Rob Shields

**Secretary** Shelagh Sanders

Treasurer Kevin Reynolds 850135

**Envelopes, Gift Aid** Richard Latos

#### **GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES**

	. 11122	
Climbers 3-7 years	Sandra Morray	286093
Explorers 7-11 years	Estella Woodhead	761659
Pathfinders 11-14 years	Enid Bell	815775
<b>Banner Group</b>	Jeanette Rowlands	816713
<b>Church Missionary Boxes</b>	Cecilia Wilding	817987
Flower Guild	Marylyn Hillman	815936
<b>Missions Secretary</b>	Cecilia Wilding	817987
Prayer Group	Jeanette Rowlands	816713
Parents & Toddlers	Sandra Morray	286093
(Mon 9.30 - 11.15am)		
<b>3rd Stone Brownies</b>	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



A meal provided by Jigsaw Ministries



# Jonathan and Robinah Beesigomwe



Stephen and Tabita Bell with a very tall missionary volunteer from Brazil who will spend 2 or 3 years in Croatia. The parents of the volunteer are on left and right.

