

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

(see page 18 for details)

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CHRIST CHURCH CENTRE

Booking Secretary Church 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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Christ & Church

Subscriptions

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

June 2016

Wed	1		
Thu	2		
Fri	3		
Sat	4	8:30 am 9:00 am	
Sun	5	9:15 am	Communion. 1 Pet 1:1-12 "Chosen for future glory"
Mon	6	6:30 pm	Breathe yrs 5-8
Tue	7	10:00 am 12:30 pm 7:00 pm	Seekers Club
Wed	8	9:25 am 6:00 pm	Christ Church First School assembly KingZone yrs 2-4
Thu	9	1:20 pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	10	10:00 am	Ladies' Morning Exploring Christianity (1/7)
Sat	11		
Sun	12	9:15 am 4:00 pm 6:00 pm	3
Mon	13	6:30 pm	Breathe yrs 5-8
Tue	14	10:00 am 12:30 pm 3:00 pm 7:00 pm	Autumn House service
Wed	15	9:25 am 6:00 pm	Christ Church First School assembly KingZone yrs 2-4

Fairtrade goods will be on sale after the service on June 19th

Thu	16	1:20 pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	17	10:00 am	Ladies' Morning Exploring Christianity (2/7)
Sat	18		
Sun	19	4:00 pm	Communion. 1 Pet 2:4-17 "Chosen to be a royal priesthood" Bereans Youth Bible Study Bring and share meal followed by study course
Mon	20		"The Finishing Line", matters of life and death (4/5) Jonathan Lamb at Shallowford House Breathe yrs 5-8
Tue	21	12:30 pm	Coffee before midweek service; service at 10:30 Seekers Club Youth Club yrs 9-13
Wed	22		Christ Church First School assembly KingZone yrs 2-4
Thu	23	1:20 pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	24		Ladies' Morning Exploring Christianity (3/7) Cathy Burton, MAF concert
Sat	25	2:00 pm	Strawberry Afternoon Tea, 20 Farrier Close
Sun	26	4:00 pm	Family service 1 Pet 2:18-25 "Chosen to follow Christ's example" Bereans Youth Bible Study Bring and Share mean followed by study course "The Finishing Line"; matters of life and death (5/5)
Mon	27	6:30 pm	Breathe yrs 5-8
Tue	28	12:30 pm 5:30 pm 7:00 pm	Coffee before midweek service; service at 10:30 Seekers Club Christ Church Academy Governors' meeting Youth Club yrs 9-13 Diocesan Synod
Wed	29		Christ Church First School assembly KingZone yrs 2-4
Thu	30	1:20 pm	Christ Church Academy assembly

Is our attention is focused on the crown or the circle? The official birthday celebrations for Her Majesty the Queen will lead to many celebrations. Thanksgiving services will mark her long a fruitful reign as our monarch, making the crown prominent in our minds. Others may be preoccupied with the circle: the flag of Europe, which consists of a circle of twelve golden (yellow), stars on an azure background, and whether we remain part of the EU. Despite the referendum looming on the horizon this month, this is <u>not</u> going to be a political article. For true sovereignty lies beyond politics, as it rests in the hands of God.

This is seen from the trial of Jesus before Pontius Pilate, the Roman Governor. Jesus remained silent in the face of accusations levelled against him, 'Pilate said: "Do you refuse to speak to me? Don't you realise I have power either to free you or crucify you?" To which Jesus replied, "You would have no power over me if it were not given you from above" '(John 19v10-11).

Queen Elizabeth II has a strong sense of having delegated powers and serving the eternal King: "I know just how much I rely on my faith to guide me through the good times and the bad. Each day is a new beginning. I know that the only way to live my life is to try to do what is right, to take the long view, to give of my best in all that the day brings, and to put my trust in God...I draw strength from the message of hope in the Christian gospel" [The Queen, Christmas 2002].

The Lord Jesus is the true sovereign. He reigns supreme and all will one day be answerable to Him. At the end of the Holy Bible He is seen in a

vision riding on a white horse called Faithful and True, coming to judge people with justice: 'On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written - "KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS" '(Rev 19v16). We are to keep in mind that it is He who alone determines the course of our lives and to whom we are to give an account.

I hope that the celebrations for the servant Queen will also prompt us to think again about the King she serves.



Strawberry Afternoon Tea

2pm - 4pm Saturday 25th June 2016 20 Farrier Close, ST15 8XP Entry £2

Includes a cup of Tea or Coffee (or juice) with a scone and a slice of cake

There will be handmade products for sale including a selection of greetings cards, bracelets, sewn items, plants and cakes

MAF Concert

7:30pm, 24th June, in Christ Church

Cathy Burton, prominent worship leader and singer-songwriter, has teamed up with MAF to perform a series of free concerts. Playing her trademark, heartfelt and emotionally honest songs, these concerts are always a great event.

They're an amazing opportunity to see God's love in action through the work of MAF. Throughout the concert, there will be inspiring DVD presentations and footage of MAF's vital work in reaching forgotten people.

All are welcome to attend the concert and we encourage you to bring friends and family along, as it promises to be a great evening. For more info see the MAF webpage & go to 'In your area' *Phil Tunstall*

Trains in the Garden

The Stone Light Railway will be running a special service to many destinations in Pete and Liz's garden on Sunday July 17th, from 3pm to 6pm. Proceeds to Jigsaw Kids Ministries. Look out for further details in the July magazine and the Church notice sheet.

Welcoming a new Diocesan Bishop to one of the largest dioceses in the Church of England will be an opportunity for many people to pray and meet throughout North Shropshire, Staffordshire and the Black Country.

The 'Season of Welcome' begins on 15 September as Rt Revd Dr Michael Ipgrave prepares for his new ministry with a nine day pilgrimage of prayer and worship in parishes around the diocese.

Two formal services will take place in Lichfield Cathedral on Saturday 24 September and our links with the worldwide church will be celebrated through venues around the diocese on Sunday 25 September. "I'm so looking forward to meeting the people of the diocese" says Bishop Michael. "And I am so looking forward to praying together. That is why I have asked for nine days of prayer as I begin to explore the richness of the Diocese of Lichfield along the way – both its geography and its spirituality."

Venues for the nine days of prayer will be announced soon and will encompass the Welsh borders, the Black Country, the Potteries and places between. The last three will be near the route of the Two Saints Way along which Bishop Michael will walk, ending on Friday 23 September at St Chad's Well in Lichfield where the Rector, Revd Rod Clark will host a service including the renewal of baptismal promises. Everyone will be welcome to these events.

In addition to the service at St Chad's Well on Friday 23rd, an hour-long prayer vigil will take place in the Cathedral at 7.30pm that evening for anyone wishing to pray for the new bishop. It will be a vigil dedicated to the Holy Spirit, asking for the anointing, blessing and equipping of Bishop Michael and the whole Diocesan family.

The formal Enthronement service takes place in Lichfield Cathedral at 11.00 on Saturday 24 September with an invited congregation of representatives of church and civic society; representatives of ecumenical and inter-faith bodies; and bishops of the Anglican Communion.

In the afternoon Bishop Michael will lead a special Diocesan Eucharist at which, hopefully, all parishes will be represented. This is our chance to greet our new Bishop in his Cathedral and his See City. He will want to interpret for us our mission under God and we will share the Eucharist together as the family of God in this place. *(continued)*

The Diocese of Lichfield is the fifth largest Diocese in the C of E with one of the smallest cathedrals. This poses a logistical problem which we are aiming to address in some very creative ways.

Bishop Michael and the Dean greatly regret that despite having a number of services, the Cathedral will be unable to accommodate all those who would like to join the main celebrations in person and so these two services will be all-ticket invitation-only events. Invitations will be sent out in due course. However, the services will be streamed live via the Diocesan website and it is hoped that congregations and groups around the diocese will gather to watch and join the celebrations in spirit.

On the Saturday evening there will be a service of Reflection and Prayers at St Chad's Shrine in the Cathedral; this will be a more relaxed time with visual and interactive elements at which Bishop Michael hopes youth groups in particular will participate.

The Cathedral's Sunday Morning Eucharist combines the ultra-local with the global faces of the church as the Cathedral's regular congregation hears from Bishop Michael for the first time; and at the same event, Bishops and visitors from our Diocesan Link Dioceses and others from as far afield as Japan bring their greetings to the 99th Bishop of Lichfield.

On Sunday evening, churches and deaneries around the diocese will have the opportunity to make or refresh acquaintances with our link dioceses at a series of services around the Diocese as our overseas bishops enjoy our diocesan hospitality.

Christ Church 130 years ago

The Annual Parish Tea was held on Whit-Thursday, June 17th, in the Town Hall. Some 250 sat down to tea, which was presided over by ladies of the Congregation. The tables were tastefully and abundantly decorated with choice flowers, as also was the platform. Our new tea service, for general parish use, made its first appearance, and was much admired. Previous to the tea and after, a Sale of Work was held in the lower portion of the Hall, as a special effort to further diminish the remaning debt upon the Church. We are glad to announce that about £14 was realised, thanks to the kindness of our friends generally. After tea there was a Musical Entertainment of considerable merit and variety.

On the afternoon of Sat April 23rd about forty ladies gathered in Christ Church Centre for afternoon tea with a guest speaker.

The tables were prettily set with white cloths overlaid with a golden runner topped with a small flower arrangement. The tempting savouries and scrumptious cakes were provided by The Secret Kitchen for a small charge per person. Tea and coffee was served to each table by a few helpers, including Eloise and Verity. (Thank you girls, your help was much appreciated). Music was provided by Roger Vaughan, who played some old favourites on the Clavinova.

The guest speaker, Amanda Brewerton, a friend of Sue Kingman's, took 'Reasons to be Thankful' as her theme. A friend of Amanda's had challenged her to write down something that she had a reason to be thankful for every day and so she started a blog, adding something each day....for a year.

This talk in turn challenged me, because Amanda's blogs did not just focus on the spiritual gifts we are given, or on family and friendships, though these featured, but on the some of the more mundane things that we often take for granted.

I thought how difficult it would be to think of one different thing each day over the next twelve months to be thankful for...... but when I began to look at some of the things that I take for granted, hot & cold running water, a favourite TV programme, the ability to Skype family, where ever in the world they are, a car to travel in when & were I want to....& the fuel to put in it, a church to attend & bible studies, local shops catering for most of my daily needs...... Suddenly I realised that I could put more things on my list than I had first thought.

I'm a long way off the 365...but I'm working on it....a day at a time!!!

Diana Tunstall

If you are interested to know more about Christianity or have a friend who may be interested to know more why not come along to this Ladies' morning?

We will start on Friday the 10th of June at 10am and run for 7 weeks until 22nd July. Its OK if you just come to come for one season to check it out. You don't even need to own a bible.

We will have tea, coffee and cake and then spend our time looking at the Gospel of Mark and explore who Jesus is and why He came. You will have to opportunity to ask any question you like in a safe non-judgemental environment.



There will also be a creche available for small children. If you do have a child that you would like to bring to the creche can you please contact me in advance so I can ensure I have enough people on hand.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Ashley 0749 669 8415

Imagine a place in the Muslim world that has relative freedom for Christians.

Imagine a place that has easy access to people from all over the Muslim world many of whom have little or no access to the Gospel.

Now **imagine** a place where all these people gather in search of a better life who are open to new experiences and opportunities.

Imagine that all of these Muslim people speak English and you only have access to them for a few short years before they return to their home lands.

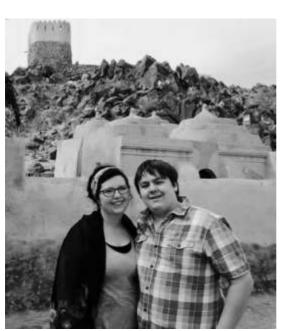
That place is the **United Arab Emirates**. Over 80% of the people who live there are not from there; many are there trying to provide for their families in other places.

Imagine if these people in their search for a better life encountered the Good News of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Imagine if they repented and put their trust in Christ and the church disciples and trains them.

Now **imagine** if these people took the gospel back to their own countries and began churches and bible studies and began to reach people for the Lord Jesus Christ.

That is exactly what is happening in the UAE.



Just last month Summar Shakeel finished his training at Immanuel Church and has returned back to Pakistan to reach out to the lost and to begin a Gospel-centred church.

Would **YOU** like to be part of this work in the Muslim world? **You can be!**

We need people to partner with us in **prayer** and financial **giving** to support this work.

We already have a good prayer support base and we want that to grow. We realise we can do nothing without God being at work by his Spirit. So please pray for us as we prepare to go to Fujairah and pray for that city. That many men and woman and boys and girls would come to know the Lord Jesus Christ. You can sign up to receive our prayer letter at www.tinyur.com/prayFujairah

We have been really encouraged by the Lords provision and the generosity of his people so far. We need to raise around £2000 per month. That's obviously a lot of money. But when we break it up and think to ourselves, that's the equivalent of 80 people giving £25 per month. It seems a lot more manageable.

Would you consider partnering with us financially to minister in Fujairah?

If you would like to support (big or small) this great work in the Muslim World you can set up a standing order. (please leave your name as a message so we can thank you)

Account name: Christ Church Development Fund

Account number: 11188666

Sort Code: 40-11-12

(If you prefer we could send you a standing order form)

Thank you so much for your prayers, encouragement and support. If you would like to hear more about what we are doing would love to hear from you.

Grace and Truth, Kieran and Ashley

Coincidences!!

I'm often surprised, though I know I shouldn't be, when the Daily Bread bible reading notes Diana & I use tie in with something current. The commentaries are written many months in advance and yet are often relevant to something that we've recently read, talked about or heard.

A similar thing happened with the current Barnabas Fund Prayer Diary, which we also use on a daily basis.

On April 10th the sermon topic at Christ Church was 'A miraculous catch of fish (again)' based on John 21: vs 1-14. In verse 11 it says "Simon Peter climbed aboard and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn."

The Barnabas prayer for Friday 29th April went like this...... "If all has gone according to plan, 153 Iraqi Christians will have arrived in the Czech Republic over the last 4 months to start new lives there, away from the persecution they have endured in their homeland. The group numbered 152 originally, but a baby was born while waiting for visas to be granted". !!!!!!!

News from Botswana

(Jonathan and Robinah Beesigomwe in Gabarone)

Dear partners, greetings from Botswana. We do not know how to say thank you for your love and support. May the Lord bless you and continue to be your all in all.

As the countdown of the last three years get into the fourth month, we realize how much there is to do. Just to share one:

This year alone we have to reach out to about 30,000 children almost directly and another thirty thousand through partners with the message of hope and character education.

We have selected three major villages of populations of 40,000 and above namely Ramotswa - 26 km to the South East, Mahalapye - 200 km North, and Maun - 1000 km North of Gaborone. These may take three months each if God give us the grace. We may change and pick something nearer as the year progresses. We only need to train churches and give materials to trained people to reach schools and communities under our supervision.

Sometimes the selection of faithful men and women to be trained and pastors who can support them and school heads who see the need are some of the challenges that only go with prayer and fasting.

The next group of partners who reach the rest are those we have worked with or trained or have their own training programmes that utilize the books we give. The only challenge is making sure they do their part and give us feedback. It has not been easy at times.

On the Marriage fitness adventure part, it's exciting to see young couples navigating the journey to long lasting marriages. Sometimes you get called to solve issues where one spouse wants a baby in the first year and the other spouse does not. When crude methods of planning such a family come up for discussion - and we are meeting one today - you need the grace of God more.

Our children back in Uganda are well. We were very privileged this year to be visited by teams from Uganda who took time to encourage us. One team included our Bishop and old friends from Uganda who had come to join the Africa House of Prayer conversion for Botswana's Jubilee. The other group had brought a Ugandan family whose son was marrying a local girl he met in school in Malaysia. They really warmed us up.

One of these visitors has shown great love to our children home. She took one to see a doctor and invited them home for Dinner. It's only God who can arrange something like this. And Elijah is expecting for us another grandchild this June.

Thank you so much for being part of this. May the Lord continue to bless you.

Jonathan and Robinah

Matthew the Immigrant

In the run-up to the EU Referendum there is much talk about immigrants. So let me tell you the story of one.

Matthew is from Ghana. His mother Esther was very kind to my wife and me and some of our parishioners as we came to the end of a lengthy teaching mission in the far north of that country. It doesn't seem much but in that desperately poor area Esther somehow conjured up some spaghetti bolognaise for us to eat. After weeks of African food it was like a feast which we have never forgotten. Since those years ago, Matthew has grown up, worked hard at his studies and financed himself to go through university by working every weekend throughout the year.

He was so successful that he was sponsored by a Ghanaian firm to further his studies in the UK. When Matthew contacted us, of course we welcomed him especially because of the kind generosity of his mother when we were in need. She gave what we needed out of her very very limited resources. So we learned of Matthew's story of being a student immigrant in our country.

Unfortunately after Matthew arrived in the UK he was informed that his sponsoring firm had had to withdraw its funding because of their economic difficulties. So he was here on a student visa, with a place at university but with no income or visible means of support. Despite all these enormous problems Matthew was determined to succeed.

Matthew has just completed his MSc at the University of Ulster. He has studied at their Birmingham campus. (I know it sounds odd but it is true!). For the past two years his student visa has allowed him to work for 21 hours a week. He could only find work through an agency on a zero hours contract at the minimum wage. Some weeks he had no work. Other weeks he would be sent to Manchester, Sheffield, Stoke or elsewhere and would have to find his travel expenses out of that minimum wage. Despite all those obstacles, Matthew has managed to pay for his accommodation, his bills and his transport AND to repay £7900 of his final year's University fees. All out of that very limited income. And he came top of his class. He is a hard worker and quite the opposite of the picture of an immigrant that is portrayed by much of the British media.

He had hoped to enrol on a PhD course which would be funded by the University but, of course, that is impossible if his limited finances prevent him securing that precious parchment confirming his qualification.

The last time we met, Matthew was quite distressed. His visa expires in a month. He still owes the University something like £1700 and until that is paid he cannot receive the document showing his degree. Fortunately he could attend the degree ceremony but only had a letter confirming his qualifications. Back in Ghana that letter would not secure him the kind of job for which he is supremely qualified. The village he comes from is extremely poor and offers no chance of using his skills. In any case, at present he cannot afford the air fare to return to Ghana. He hopes to secure enough work from the agency – which is not guaranteed – so that he will earn sufficient to pay that fare. Four weeks left at minimum wage on a zero hours contract allows no certainty that he will not be arrested for overstaying his welcome. *(continued)*

Such is the life of one student immigrant who has denied himself and worked very hard for what, in the end, may be very little reward. Sad, isn't it?

However, we have prayed with him and at present there is the possibility that some kind person known to us may be able to loan him enough to solve his present difficulties. But this elderly pensioner trusts us enough to consider making the offer. I know that in a former parish where I was the Vicar the people would generously refund that trusting donor. We learned there that God provides pennies from heaven, not large donations but small amounts from people whose hearts are touched.

So pray for Matthew and recall his story when you next read criticism of immigrants in your newspaper.

Colin Crumpton (formerly vicar of Edensor)
For further information contact Colin or Rita Crumpton at 1 Dennis
Round Court, Hall Drive, Alsager ST7 2YD Tel 01782 879479

Going to Church is good for you - it's official

"Going to church could save your life," reports the Daily Mail, adding that, "Women who worship once a week are '25 per cent less likely to die early'."

A large Harvard study showed that predominantly white Christian nurses who attended religious services more than once a week had a 33% lower relative risk of dying over a 16-year period compared with similar women who did not attend religious services.

A sizeable chunk of the link was explained by social support (23%), smoking rates (23%) and, to a lesser extent, optimism differences (9%) between attenders and non-attenders.

The study was very large, precise, and as robust to bias and confounding as you could reasonably expect, so it can be considered reliable. But the lifestyle and social differences between the groups can't go unnoticed.

It's therefore possible that the regular pattern of social interaction associated with being part of a religious community, and the benefits this brings, is mainly responsible for the outcome seen in this research, rather than any specific religious or spiritual aspects.

The study was carried out by researchers from the Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health in the US. It was funded by the John Templeton Foundation, which, according to its website, funds research on the "big questions of human purpose and ultimate reality". The foundation has a stated aim of using scientific methods to explore the alleged spiritual aspects of reality. The study was published in the peer-reviewed Journal of the American Medical Association: Internal Medicine.

The Independent reported advice from the researchers, who said: "Our results do not imply that healthcare professionals should prescribe attendance at religious services, but for those who already hold religious beliefs, attendance at services could be encouraged as a form of meaningful social participation."

The researchers analysed information from 74,534 female US nurses who had been answering health and lifestyle questionnaires every two years from 1992 to 2012 as part of the Nurses' Health Study, a rich ongoing source of epidemiological research.

Extracts from the NHS choices website

ROADS FOR PRAYER

5th June

Chestnut Grove Edward Street Field Terrace Field House Court

19th June Mount Road Mount Street Old Road Stonefield Court 12th June

Kent Grove Meaford Avenue Mount Avenue Mount Crescent

26th June Stonefield Square

Victor Street
Victoria Street
Whitebridge Lane



17

REGISTERS AND ROTAS

BAPTISM

24th April Isla Elsie June Russell

FUNERALS

19th February	Irene Moss	Age 86
2 nd March	Helen Sarah Hutchinson	Age 50
29th March	Ken Wilson	Age 89
30th March	Michael William Seabon	Age 81
4 th April	Christine Hill	Age 78
12 th April	John Brenton	Age 86
26 th April	Alfred William Eccles	Age 75
28 th April	Barry Tams	Age 82
4 th May	Stephen John Carter	Age 61

SIDESPERSONS ROTA

AM

	7 1111		
5 th June	D. Shemilt J. Bowes	K. Woodward J. Abrahams	
12 th June	D. WilsonD. Davies	L. Fforde D. Pickles	Ź
19 th June	P. Roberts G. Latos	K. Rein E. Kingman	
26th June	P. Kelly C. Reeve	D. Garrington-Mill	er

FLOWER ROTA

5 th June	Mrs I. Gassor
12th June	Mrs L. Mason
19th June	Mrs S. Morray
26th June	Flower Guild

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

Climbers 3-7 years

Estella Woodhead	761659
Enid Bell	815775
Jeanette Rowlands	816713
Cecilia Wilding	817987
Marylyn Hillman	815936
Cecilia Wilding	817987
Jeanette Rowlands	816713
Sandra Morray	286093
Janet Smith	815939
ol)	
	Enid Bell

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

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