

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

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Vicar Paul Kingman 812669

The Vicarage, Bromfield Court

Youth and Children's Minister

Sean Bradford sean.bradford@christchurchstone.org

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 Butler 818160

ReadersDave Bell815775Helen Bowes812317

David Rowlands 261199 Michael Thompson 813712

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 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 A Church

Subscriptions

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

January 2017

Sun	1	11:00 am	Joint service at St. John's, Oulton. Luke 2:21-40 "In keeping with the law"
Mon	2		
Tue	3		Coffee before midweek service; service at 10:30 Youth Club
Wed	4	9:25 am	Christ Church First School assembly
Thu	5	10:30 am 1:20 pm	Open prayer time in church Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	6		
Sat	7		
Sun	8	9:15 am	Morning Prayer. Luke 2:41-52 "Precocious or perfect?"
Mon	9		Toddler group Breathe yrs 5-8
Tue	10	12:30 pm 3:00 pm	Coffee before midweek service; service at 10:30 Seekers Club Autumn House service Youth Club
Wed	11	9:25 am 6:00 pm	Christ Church First School assembly KingZone yrs 2-4 Standing Committee meeting
Thu	12	10:30 am 11:00 am 1:20 pm	St Mary's Home Communion service
Fri	13		
Sat	14		
Sun	15	11:00 am	Joint Covenant service. Luke 3:1-20 "A voice in the wilderness" Followed by bring and share lunch
Mon	16	9:30 am 6:30 pm	*

		T	
Tue	17	10:00 am	,
		12:30 pm	
		7:00 pm	Youth Club
Wed	18	9:25 am	Christ Church First School assembly
		6:00 pm	KingZone yrs 2-4
		7:30 pm	- ·
Thu	19	10:30 am	
HIIU	19	1:20 pm	
		1.20 pm	Christ Charen readonly assembly
Fri	20		
Sat	21	8:30 am	Prayer meeting followed by breakfast
Sun	22	9:15 am	Family service. Luke 12:13-21 "The rich fool"
Sull			Churches Together in Stone service at Methodist
		0.00 F	church (Walton Priory Middle School"
M	23	0.30 am	Toddler Group
Mon	23		Service at St Saviour's, Aston
			Breathe yrs 5-8
		_	
Tue	24		Coffee before midweek service; service at 10:30
			Seekers Club
		7:00 pm	Youth Club
Wed	25	9:25 am	Christ Church First School assembly
		6:00 pm	KingZone yrs 2-4
		7:30 pm	PCC meeting
Thu	26	10:30 am	Open prayer time in church
Tilu	20	1:20 pm	
F :	27	1.20 pm	emist charen readeiny assembly
Fri	27		
Sat	28		
Sun	29	9:15 am	Morning Prayer. Luke 13:18-30
			"What is the kingdom of God like?"
		Evening	Life Explored preparation
Mon	30	<u> </u>	Toddler Group
IVIOII	30		Breathe yrs 5-8
		•	·
Tue	31		
		•	
		/:00 pm	Youth Club
Tue	31	10:00 am 12:30 pm	Coffee before midweek service; service at 10:30 Seekers Club Youth Club

Fairtrade goods will be on sale after the service on January 22nd

A new calendar year

Most people have one. Most people get a new one each year. Most people basically live by the same one. Yet many have discovered a completely new version that makes sense of the whole of life. That's true for me. Following Jesus re-writes the calendar of life: the past, present and also the future.

While most of my life is diary driven, the bigger picture is the history of salvation: from creation to the new creation. I recently mislaid my diary. At first I was annoyed, then I was anxious. A search and rescue operation was launched. I checked the study, my coat, the car and my bags. My wife re-checked them. I texted friends in case I'd left it behind when we'd met the day before. I re-lived the last twenty-four hours. Finally, I found it - in a drawer. Phew! Nothing had changed except my use of time. But, what of the bigger picture? My frantic activity sits in a bigger story: the story of Jesus and his Kingdom.

If you celebrate Christmas then you acknowledge how God stepped into His world, at a particular time in history. He came to provide a rescue for lost humanity and He promises to return take His rescued people home. We're to live in the light of this, as the Apostle Paul explained to the Athenians: 'He determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. God did this so that people would seek Him and perhaps reach out for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us' (Acts 17v26-27). God created history when He created time and He will bring history to a fitting close: 'For He has set a day when He will judge the world with justice by the man He has appointed. He has given proof of this to all people by raising Him from the dead' (Acts 17v31). The one named 'Jesus' matters a whole lot more than the Christmas cards let on!

So, this next year is not just another revolution of the clock, but an opportunity to grow in Christian faith. We invest time in up-skilling

for work, so what about ups-skilling your faith? Resolve to get to grips with the Bible's teachings. Develop a discipline of prayer. Commit to live for the extension of God's Kingdom. This month we have a service to rededicate ourselves to the service of the Lord. Next month we start 'Life Explored' during Lent. Will your 2017 diary reflect God's priorities? May you know many blessings in this New Year. *Paul Kingman*



Churches Together in Stone

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Wednesday 18th to Tuesday 24th January 2017

Wednesday 18th

St Dominic's Church at 7.30pm Taize Worship

Thursday 19th

St Michael's Church at 10.30am Holy Communion

followed by Coffee

Friday 20th

Saturday 21st

Christ Church at 8.30am Ecumenical Prayer

Meeting, followed by

breakfast

Sunday 22nd

United Service Walton Middle School

Service Hosted By St

John's At 6.00pm

Monday 23rd

St Saviour's Church, Aston 12 Noon Short act of worship,

then a simple lunch

Tuesday 24th

Christ Church 10.30am

Holy Communion preceded by Coffee

at 10:00 am

Thank You from Stone Festival

Stone Festival would like to thank Christ Church for hosting the Jazz evening on 25th November 2016. It was a very enjoyable and successful evening and the money raised will be going to the Stone Community Hub. Many thanks again.

Amen

'What did you do at school today, Ben?'

'Nothing-much-did-building-bricks-Mrs-Lillystone-told-a-story-had-lunch-playtime-games-circle-time-came-home-that-was it. AMEN'. To my four year old son, it seemed entirely natural that a speech as long and informative as that should end with a resonant 'Amen'.

'Amen' is indeed a word so rich in meaning and in force that it has come down to us untranslated from Hebrew; and 'Amin' in Arabic means much the same. 'Amen' sign ifies our assent to prayer, to praise, and to the promises of God. It is one of the most joyful words in the Christian vocabulary, as it expresses our full-hearted commitment to what God is doing in our lives. Why is it then that in church we so often mumble it, mutter it, or simply use the opportunity to cough? I long to hear full-voiced, emphatic 'Amens', preferably on a rising intonation which speaks of expectation and confidence.

Like potato and tomato, it can be either ah-men or ay-men, but that really does not matter, because this is not a matter of speech training. It is a matter which goes to the heart of how we express faith in our everyday lives, as the story of Advent and Christmas shows. Blessed Mary's 'Let it be to me according to your Word' was one great, lived Amen. No mere passive acceptance this: Mary's assent put her own commitment firmly into the story: not just, 'That's a nice idea ', but 'I want to be part of the answer'. And so through her the great Amen himself, Jesus our Lord, was able to come to fulfil God's promises to our needy world.

It is up to each of us today to commit to being part of God's answer in Jesus as with full voice and joyful heart we acclaim 'Amen'. I look forward to hearing from you all!

Rt Revd Dr Michael Ipgrave Bishop of Lichfield During the course of my work here, I have had to address the misuse of the name of Jesus on several occasions. On one particular instance, after a child had blasphemed twice, I took the him aside whilst the other children where occupied to lovingly correct him.

I spoke to him of how he had misused the name of Jesus on two occasions I explained that Jesus' name is above every name, that Jesus is so wonderful and good that to associate his name with issues of disgust is a truly evil thing. I spoke of the third commandment, that God will not hold those guiltless who take his name in vein, I reminded him that he would have to give an account to God for every word that he has spoken at the end of his life and finally that whilst he is young to rid this practice because he who sins is a slave to sin and being older the habit will be harder to kick.

His reaction was not one I expected. He was deeply convicted, grieved by what he had done. Tears where welled up in his eyes and he was flushed. I asked him if he understood and he nodded. We prayed together and then shook hands. He left with a smile on his face and later offered me one of his sweeties.

I could only imagine the backlash one would receive if the same truth was spoken to an adult.

He has since shown much engagement during the Bible teachings and is, too my knowledge, reading the Bible with his parents at home.

"For what children are not disciplined by their father? If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all. Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live! They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it". Heb. 12:1-2. (continued)

The name of Jesus (cont)

"Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven". Matt. 18:3-4

God Bless, Sean

A memory of Cecilia

Thanks for breaking this sad news. For some reason I kept hoping one day we would meet again this side of eternity. But as the Bible says we are not to grieve like those who do not have hope.

She was a Faith hero and her soul rests in eternal peace. We have lost a mother but we shall meet her on the other side. She cared for us and encouraged us not to give up missionary work.

Please pass on our condolences to the Church and to her family. Romans 14:7, 8.

She was praying that we manage to make it home this holiday and that Jonathan Junior goes to see Uganda for the first time in 14 years. And it is happening.

May the Lord comfort us today and in what happens after this. Very sad but hopeful,

Jonathan and Robinah Beesigomwe (Missionaries in Botswana)

Covenant Service Sunday 15th January

We have a 'covenant' service at 11.00am on Sunday 15th January 2017 followed by a bring and share lunch (Christ Church to bring savoury and Oulton and Moddershall to do puds!). The speaker will be Stephen Pratt, who is Chaplain to 22 Signal Regiment based at MOD Stafford. A brief biography follows on page 9.

The Reverend Samuel Pratt CF Chaplain 22 Signal Regiment

Most of Stephen's childhood was spent in Liverpool- his father was a vicar in Toxteth during the riots. Growing up in a clergy household meant a lot of moving – so part of his early childhood was spent in London and Stoke on Trent. It was aged 3, when his father was in training at Oak Hill, that Stephen felt called to fulltime ministry. After joining the Air Training Corps, Stephen was convinced he would become an RAF Chaplain. However, all that was to come to nothing after attending a CofE selection conference in which Stephen was told to get some worldly experience for 2 years.

Stephen became Maths teacher and Head of Year at a CofE Secondary School in Romford where he taught for 9 years, it was whilst looking for another teaching job that God very clearly renewed the call to ministry, which Stephen finally succumbed to. After training for ministry at Oak Hill Theological College, Stephen was ordained in Chelmsford Diocese in June 2000 serving his curacy in Goodmayes, East London. Stephen explored RAF chaplaincy, but turned it down due to having school age children so in 2003, Stephen became Team Vicar in the Chell Team Ministry with responsibility for Church of the Saviour Chell Heath. Church of the Saviour consisted of 6 members when Stephen and family first moved to Stoke, after 3 years of prayer, evangelism and much frustration, the church had grown to 30 members. In 2007, with the retirement of the Team Rector, Stephen took on responsibility for both churches in the team becoming vicar of Chell.

In January 2005, Stephen joined the TA and became padre to the Royal Mercian Lancastrian Yeomanry (RMLY). During this time, Stephen spent a month looking after Queen Elizabeth's Hospital in Birmingham during the height of the Afghan war. In September 2015, Stephen left parish ministry and the Reserves to become a chaplain in the Regular Army. Stephen is currently Chaplain to 22 Signal Regiment based at MOD Stafford. During the last year, he has spent time in Latvia/Lithuania as well as Germany ministering the Gospel to soldiers on exercise or in barracks. Army Chaplaincy is frontline mission work, as most of the soldiers don't know Jesus personally and many will not have been in church at all apart from during their initial training. *(continued)*

Stephen was a member of the General Synod of the CofE (2010-2015) and also served on the Lichfield Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) as well as serving as a Vocations Advisor and Local Ministry Selector for the Diocese. Currently Stephen is also chaplain to the High Sherriff of Staffordshire. Other highlights of ministry have included preaching at Westminster Abbey; saying grace for the Queen and spilling coke on the Duke of Westminster's highly polished table!

Stephen is married to Paivi, who is from Finland. They met at church where Paivi was on the staff team working as a missionary in East London and Stephen had started to attend when he moved down to teach. Stephen finally found the courage to ask Paivi to marry him, a week before she was due to move back to Finland. They were married 29 Dec 1993 in Finland where the temperature was -29degrees. They have three sons ranging in age from 21 to 15 years. Stephen's interests include flying (microlights and more recently gliders), keeping a Marine Aquarium and wine making.

Stephen Pratt

1866 and all that

(A brief history of Readership in the C of E)

On Ascension Day 1866 the bishops of the Province of Canterbury (which then included what is now the Church of Wales), reached agreement that laymen could be licensed in all dioceses to lead prayers and preach in the absence of a clergyman. The Church of England is celebrating the 150th anniversary of this decision in 2016 as the charter of foundation of Reader ministry in its modern form.

Readers did exist in the Church of England before that date, but with very limited powers. For example when Elizabeth 1 became Queen in 1558, Archbishop Matthew Parker licensed laymen to read services but insisted that "a Reader should read the Order of Service appointed: but such a Reader was not to Intermeddle to Christen, Marry, or Minister the Holy Communion, or Preach or Prophecy; but only to read the Service of the Day."

(continued)

Readers never quite died out in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries for the simple reason that there were never enough clergy to serve every parish church and chapel every Sunday. By the early nineteenth century there was a great anxiety in the established Church that nonconformist denominations such as Methodism would prove attractive to the working class because they offered uneducated men the opportunity to become lay preachers, and the creation of Readers would alleviate this concern. In 1862 the Lower House of Convocation agreed to address a representation to the Upper House of Convocation (the bishops), 'that whatever Increase may take place in the number of persons admitted to the Diaconate, a supplemental agency is also required'

The Bishops did not accept the proposal of the Lower House there and then but the movement for Readers was gaining traction within the Church at large, and in 1864 a petition of the Church of England Young Men's Society pleaded to the Archbishop of Canterbury that there be added to the existing Clergy a large body of earnest-hearted men to carry on the work of the Church in its more secular and subordinate departments, and also peculiarly adapted to the evangelization of the Mechanic Classes, and other sections of the community as yet but little reached by ordinary ministration.'

So there followed the Bishops' decision In 1866. It ensured that Readers received some kind of national recognition as a ministry that existed as something more than a stop-gap in the absence of enough ordained ministers. They were also different from Readers pre-1866 because they were licensed to preach as well as to read.

Since 1866 Readers have become more significant in the Church with every passing year and since 1969 women have also been admitted to this office

A book about Readers published this year has the title 'Instruments of Christ's Love' and that is how so many have experienced their ministry in the Church of England. It is for the last 150 years of that wonderful gift that we give thanks today - and for the promise of what it might (yet) give us in the future that we look to God with trust and great expectancy.

Dave Rowlands

New Year Word Search

S	Е	I	P	Е	С	N	I	M	О	С
О	S	S	T	A	В	L	Е	Е	S	M
S	G	M	D	D	R	A	С	Н	L	T
G	N	I	A	R	T	Е	О	Е	О	U
N	I	A	F	R	Е	L	L	L	R	R
Ι	K	Н	Е	T	Y	Н	О	Н	A	K
D	Е	Е	P	N	S	V	P	T	С	Е
D	Е	L	I	Е	Е	A	S	Е	Y	Y
U	R	G	Е	V	S	F	N	В	Н	I
P	Н	A	I	D	T	О	Н	T	N	S
T	T	F	U	A	Y	О	J	N	A	L

The 23 words are all hidden in the grid. Words can be forwards, backwards, diagonally, up or down but always in a straight line. Letters can be used more than once. The unused letters reading from left to right and from top to bottom will spell out a message for the New Year.

SQUARE TRAFALGAR HAPPY NEW **JANUARY** YEAR **HOLIDAY** CHURCH CHIME **FESTIVE** AULD LANG SYNE **KISS** WISH CHAMPAGNE **BELLS** MERRY BIG BFN **TWELVEOCLOCK HONOURSLIST CELEBRITY**

Happy New Year, Arthur

An opportunity not to be missed

'I'm surprised that the Library let you put up a sign like that' said a gentleman in the library after the opening of the Advent Window on Market Day this year... Thankfully he was approving of the message: **Celebrating the Christ Child,** boldly displayed in the window. 'Not many towns in Britain today would allow a local church to proclaim the true meaning of Christmas like that', he continued.

It is thanks to David and Pam Pott, who 7 years ago came up with an idea for turning the High Street in Stone into a large Advent Calendar, that the Advent Window project has become an accepted part of the town's celebration of Christmas each year. . Over the years Christmas Carols along with Bible passages have been as the basis for the window displays. This year, the alphabet informed the biblical messages - from A for Angel at Simply Petals through to `EXalted for You in a BlaZe

An opportunity (cont)

The Advent Window project reaches deep into our local community and beyond – especially on market days when people travel into Stone from towns and villages nearby. It is so encouraging to see very young children from our local nurseries with their parents and carers turning out on a cold Sunday morning to see their window opened and then spend time together enjoying mince pies, biscuits and hot drinks supplied by manager of a local pub. In such a relaxed and friendly atmosphere it is easy to talk to people about the true meaning of Christmas and invite them to the Christmas services and Christingle activities at church.

A big thank you goes to Helen and John Bowes for all the work they once again put into organising the scheme – starting just after Easter and working through to the end of December! The Advent Window team also owes a big thank you to everyone who helped to make this event so successful: the shop-keepers and others who gave us 'window space'; the children and adults who created the beautiful window displays; and everyone who came to the opening of the windows and took the opportunity to share the Christmas message of love and hope with other people in Stone.

'We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us...' (2 Corinthians 5: 20)

Elizabeth and Chris

Christ Church 132 years ago

To the Parishioners of Christ Church, Stone MY DEAR FRIENDS,-

I hope our Parish Magazine will be welcomed by all. It will come as a friend once a month, and give you information of events in our own parish and much besides that will be both interesting, instructive, and useful. I have long wished for this " missing link " to be forged, and am now encouraged to make it a reality by the willingness of my dear brother in the ministry to undertake the heavier part of the work connected with it. Once started, I hope its circulation will steadily increase. This will depend upon you. Let every house in the parish have its copy, let it be carefully read, let it be regularly paid for, and lastly, let it be persistently recommended to others. We want some Annual Subscribers of 2s. 6d., so as to enable us to fix the price of the Magazine at " One Penny." This will bring it within the reach, of all.

That it may prove a help, a comfort, and an encouragement to all, is the earnest desire of

Your affectionate Pastor, WALTER J. THOMPSON.

CHRIST CHURCH VICARAGE, January, 1885. GATHERING OF WORKERS AND OTHERS.

By invitation of the Vicar and Mrs. Thompson, the various workers of the parish, numbering about 90, met together for a "Social Evening," on Thursday, January, 8th; the primary object being to accord to the Rev. Arthur Pearman a very hearty welcome as Curate, and to assure him of our good wishes and prayers for his work and happiness.

A very pleasant evening was spent, and the opportunity of becoming better acquainted with each other was fully made use of. The evening was made additionally enjoyable by the various songs and selections of music on the pianoforte, with which our friends came provided.

The Vicar, in drawing the evening to a close, expressed the pleasure he felt in meeting so many of his fellow workers who in various ways assisted him in the parish, and trusted the gathering might encourage and cheer each one to labour on faithfully and courageously.

REGISTERS AND ROTAS

FUNERAL

6th December Cecilia Wilding

SIDESPERSONS ROTA

AM

8th January D. Shemilt K. Woodward D. Davies L. Fforde D. Wilson 15th January P. Roberts D. Pickles P. Kelly 22nd January J. Abrahams J. Bowes A. Smith R. Brandon G. Leithead 29th January E. Kingman G. Holden G. Latos



Age 75

FLOWER ROTA

8th January Flower Guild 15th January Flower Guild 22nd January Flower Guild 29th January Flower Guild

ROADS FOR PRAYER

1st January

Bentley Close Rendel Grove Brindley Close Rudyard Close



8th January

Cressey Close Joules Drive Cauldon Way Harecastle Bank

22nd January

The Crescent End Granville Terr Millers Gate Hartley Drive

15th January

Saltersford Rise Rolt Close Millenium Way Cameron Wharf

29th January

Albert Street
Alexandra Street
Arthur Street
Berkeley Street

Deanery Synod Reps Helen Bowes

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

Shelagh Sanders, Pete Mason, George Holden

Peter Rein, G. Leithead, Pam Shields

Kevin Reynolds, Estella Woodhead, Rob Shields

Secretary Shelagh Sanders

Treasurer

Envelopes, Gift Aid Richard Latos

GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

Climbers 3-7 years

Explorers 7-11 years	Estella Woodhead	761659
Banner Group	Jeanette Rowlands	261199
Church Missionary Boxes	Church Office	811990
Flower Guild	Marylyn Hillman	815936

(Mon 6:00-7:30pm, First School)

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 Junior Church 7-13 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

Kingzone (years 2-4) Wednesday 6:00 pm

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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