

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

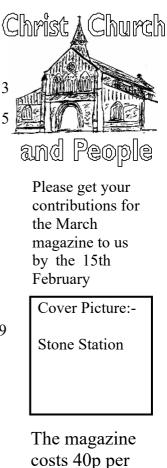
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Vicar	Paul Kingman	812669
	The Vicarage, Bromfield (Court
Youth and Children's		
	Sean Bradford sean.bra	dford@christchurchstone.or
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Parish Office Christ	Church Centre, Christ Church	Way, Stone, Staffs ST15 8ZB
		fice@christchurchstone.org 811990
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Readers	Dave Bell	815775
	Helen Bowes	812317
	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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- issue or £4 for
 - a full year.

5, 16

Subscriptions

If you would like this magazine delivered to you regularly, please contact: Church Office 01785 811990

February 2017

Wed	1	9:25 am 6:00 pm	Christ Church First School assembly KingZone yrs 2-4
Thu	2	10:30 am 1:20 pm 7:00 pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	3		
Sat	4	8:30 am 2:00 pm	Prayer meeting followed by breakfast Agape team visiting
Sun	5	9:15 am	Communion Luke 14:1-14 "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?"
Mon	6	9:30 am 6:30 pm	Toddler group Breathe yrs 5-8
Tue	7	10:00 am 12:30 am 7:00 pm	Seekers Club
Wed	8	9:25 am 6:00 pm	Christ Church First School assembly KingZone yrs 2-4
Thu	9	10:30 am 11:00 am 1:20 pm	St Mary's Home Communion service
Fri	10		
Sat	11		
Sun	12	9:15 am	Morning Prayer Luke 14:15-24 "Who will eat at the King's table?"
Mon	13		Toddler group Breathe yrs 5-8
Tue	14	10:00 am 12:30 am 3:00 pm 7:00 pm	Seekers Club Autumn House service
Wed	15	9:25 am 6:00 pm 7:30 pm	KingZone yrs 2-4
Thu	16	10:30 am 1:20 pm	

Fri	17		
Sat	18		
Sun	19	9:15 am	Communion. Luke 14:25-34 "Who does not first count the cost of discipleship?"
Mon	20		
Tue	21	10:00 am	Coffee before midweek service; service at 10:30 am
Wed	22		
Thu	23	10:30 am	Open prayer time in church
Fri	24		
Sat	25		
Sun	26		Family service. Luke 15:11-31 "Which of these two sons is lost?" Lent course. Life Explored (1) "The good God"
Mon	27		Toddler Group Breathe yrs 5-8
Tue	28	12:30 am	Coffee before midweek service; service at 10:30 am Seekers Club Youth Club

Messages to the preacher

The Sermon Preparation

A boy was watching his father, a pastor, write a sermon.

"How do you know what to say?" he asked.

"Why, God tells me."

"Oh, then why do you keep crossing things out?

Bible Lesson

A Sunday School teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem.

A small child replied: "They couldn't get a baby sitter."

(found by Ron Fox)

Fairtrade goods will be on sale after the service on February 26th

'So, now what?' With Christmas behind us (or is it only 10 months away?), the January sales ended and Valentine's Day coming up fast, what is the main thing for life? We have family, jobs and hobbies that all occupy our time, while our plans and hopes are modified along the way. But do you ever think, "I need a spiritual detox"? Let me hand you over to a former generation for some wisdom:

"The humble ADVICE OF THE Assembly OF Divines, Now by authority of Parliament sitting at Westminster, concerning a Shorter Catechism, Presented by them lately to both Houses of PARLIAMENT. A certain number of Copies are Ordered to be Printed for the sake of the Members of both Houses and of the Assembly of Divines, to the end that they may be advised thereupon." LONDON. Printed by A.M.

[Title page of the Shorter Catechism, 25 Nov 1647].

A catechism was a means of teaching the Christian faith. This 'Q&A' method has varied in popularity over the centuries, but it was also used in the Scottish kirk amongst children on Sunday afternoons. The **Westminster Shorter Catechism** was written in 1646 and 1647 and intended to bring the Church of England into greater conformity with the Church of Scotland. A year later they published a version with scripture verses. The answers were learnt by rote:

Q1: What is the chief end of man?

A: Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.

Q2: What rule hath God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him?

A: The Word of God, which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him.

In the Holy Bible we read: "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being" (Rev 4v11). At the end of the month we have a series of thought provoking films called `Life Explored'. (continued)



Our Primary Purpose (cont)

These films helps us explore how easily we invest in many things in our pursuit of life, but so often find that they not only disappoint but also divert us from our true purpose, which is to know God and to enjoy him forever. Do join us as we learn more together. *Paul Kingman*

Carol-singing

Christmas is a special time of the year for so many reasons but something made it extra special this year! Our home group was invited to sing carols at Stoke hospital. Jeanette and Dave Rowlands and Dilys Davies did it last year and they assured us that this was an opportunity not to be missed. They were so right! We were a fairly large crowd from churches all around the area who signed in with the hospital chaplains. Then we were split up into several smaller groups and we set off to sing the great songs of Advent on the different wards. Our group was led by Leo, one of the chaplains. He is a delightful, gentle and tranguil man from the Philippines - just the sort of person who would bring great comfort and encouragement at a hospital bed-side. First, he led us to the high care ward where we started to sing. The response was muted but so sincere, little smiles and waves and frail gestures that showed we were appreciated. We moved on to other wards. On some the more mobile patients got out of bed and came and sang with us, some of the nurses joined in and on all the wards we were so graciously received and appreciated by patients and staff alike.

In all it was a really moving experience which brought tears to my eyes and an increased awareness of all the blessings of health and strength which we often tend to take for granted and of the blessing of a Saviour who brings hope, joy and salvation to a hurting, bruised and battered world! *Kath Rein*

Thanks from Janet

I would like to thank everyone most sincerely for all your thoughts, kind wishes and prayers following my recent illness. I am pleased to say that I am feeling much better, as my recovery continues.

Thank you, Janet and Steve Booth and family

Life Explored is an informal and relaxed seven-week course which explores some of the ways we try to find contentment and happiness, and asks the question: "Are we looking in the right place?"



At Christ Church Centre, Stone

Starting Sunday 26th February at 6:00pm, or repeated Wednesday 1st March at 7:30pm

WHAT'S THE BEST GIFT GOD COULD GIVE YOU?

LIFE EXPLORED

Life Explored

Women' World Day of Prayer Friday 3rd March 2017

2pm St. Dominic's Church, Stone

The service has been prepared by Christian Women of the Philippines who greet everyone with the word, MABUHAY. This carries different meanings including 'welcome' and 'hurrah'.

MABUHAY!

As some of our benefice members will be taking part, we invite you to join as we reflect on this year's theme

'Am I Being Unfair to you?'

It's that time of the year again.

If you have a Children's Society house box could you let me have it - please.

Either bring it to church, give it to me or leave it in the office, please do not leave it in the church.

Alternatively let me know and I will collect it from your home. Sandra Morray. Children's Society Secretary

Christingle Service 17th Dec. 2016

About 65 Oranges were made into Christingles by the children and parents, the children finding out what each symbol represented. The crafts were amazing once again thanks to Estella.

It was a very busy time and a great atmosphere, with a few old friends arriving and joining in. This year it was lovely to see many young families from the Toddler Group past and present.

At 4.30pm we went into church where there was singing, prayers for the Children's Society followed by a talk involving the children led by Helen Bowes, with some very interesting statistics.

The children brought their Christingles to the front and they were lit, the children behaving beautifully, sang – 'Away in a manger-MAGIC.

Afterwards we enjoyed refreshments a BIG thank you to the church family who provided and served them.

The children from Christ Church First School took a collecting candle home and raised £115-25P. FANTASTIC.

The children from Oulton First School also took a candle home and raised £129-50p. FANTASTIC.

Christ Church along with the Parents and Toddler group raised \pounds 91-00. A grand total of \pounds 335-75p has been forwarded to the Children's Society for their work with homeless and disadvantaged children in the UK. That is fantastic our children who have so much, have given to children they don't know, to help them this Christmas and throughout the year.

A huge 'THANK YOU' to all who gave so generously. Sandra Morray, Children's Society Secretary

⁸ Oulton & Christ Church Mothers' Union

Oulton and Christ Church Mothers' Union is a thriving group with about 15 members but many are fairly elderly and we would love to welcome some new members, especially from Christ Church.

We meet on the third Thursday of each month at 2.30 pm in the church room at St. John's, Oulton. We start with a short service followed by a speaker or a discussion and end with a cup of tea and a biscuit. I am attaching a copy of our AGM report hoping it will be of interest. Ann Butler, Gladys Farrar and Diana Shemilt are members and I'm sure they would be happy to provide more details if you are interested. Alternatively, you can call me on 01782 372324. Janet Thorne

Last Year's Rainfall

2016 (34 Inches) was higher than 2015 by 7 inches. January (5 inches) was the wettest month. Otherwise the summer months (June – September) provided the bulk of our rain – for the holidays: 14.5 inches!

In October there was a mere 0.65 of an inch. March, April and May averaged just over 2 inches per month – good for the growing season. Unlike the previous year, frost started in early November in 2016. There were hardly any frosts the previous winter. Brian Reeve Rain recorder

MAF's smallest plane make a big difference

Pilot Eivind Lindtjørn flies the Cessna 182 in South Sudan.

"I feel much more connected to our partners. Because of the type of flying that we do, I wait with the passengers and then I go back with them, so I get to know them at a different level. We have prayer fellowship before we go. I feel a part of the ministry when I fly this plane."

"I can fly down to Lokitok, a 40-minute flight, with 270 kg of cargo or 2 to 3 passengers for \$260 round trip. To drive, it's pot-holed and there are bandits along the road. It would take them a whole day, so they save both in money and time. With this aircraft we can actually say that it's cheaper to use that aircraft than to use their car."

⁹ Oulton & Christ Church Mothers' Union

Members held their AGM in the church room in January. The meeting started with a short service which Jenny Vaughan led. This included prayers for two members, Janet Stokes who is in hospital and Prue Fairbairn who is recovering from pneumonia. Then I gave the treasurer's report. We have £478 in the account and agreed that we would send £65 to each of five Mothers' Union charities which include AFIA (Away from it all holidays) for families struggling financially, Overseas Fund and the Relief Fund for emergencies. This money is in addition to the annual members' subscription of £22 for 2017.

In Prue's absence I also gave the secretary's report. 2016 was a very happy and successful year with an excellent Lady Day communion service in April, taken at short notice by Shaun Morris, the vicar of Hanford Church. In May Deaconess Ann Butler took a service of music and meditation with some beautiful pieces of music interspersed with readings and prayers about St. Paul. We had our annual coffee morning at Prue and Andrew's home in June which raised £294 despite being a cold, damp day. We had afternoon tea at Heath House Farm, Caverswall in August and our Christmas party in December.

We had a variety of speakers at our other meetings throughout the year. A particularly interesting and moving talk was given in March by Maureen Recine who told us about the Smile Project at Kidedema School in Kenya. Guides have been out to the school and carried out a variety of building tasks such as plastering, plumbing, painting, drawing murals and also playing games with the children. We learnt of the beneficial effect these visits have had on the guides themselves.

Maureen said a Porridge Project had been started to give the children, who are often hungry when they arrive at school, a nutritious mug of porridge each morning. During the year, we decided to have a sales table at our meetings and the proceeds from this are to go to this project. \pounds 50.30 is to be sent to Maureen.

M.U. is run by a committee of Jenny, Prue and myself and we all agreed to continue for a further 12 months. We discussed our programme for 2017 and several speakers and activities are being planned. Our next meeting will be on Thursday, 16th February at 2.30 pm when our speaker will be Angela Webb.

New members would be very welcome. Janet Thorne

Pouring Forth

As I sit here at the kitchen table gazing at my teapot, I realise a cup of tea is really a spiritual experience. I am looking at God! Yes, teapots can be likened to God. Does that surprise you? Miracles can happen over a teapot: advice, comfort, companionship, and gentleness; even heavy-duty problems expressed over a pot of tea have been satisfied and completed. Teapots are all different. Some are simple and plain, others fanciful. Mine has red roses spilling down the sides that make me think of the Christ's blood; the shiny gold trim, brings to mind the gifts of the Magi to the baby Jesus.

I remember clearly my Granny's teapot, which was an ordinary dull brown. Not a thing of beauty at all. It reminds me of Isaiah's prophecy that told how the Messiah would not be comely like a matinee idol that people flock to for his good looks. They would be drawn to him for other reasons. Like Gran's teapot, quite mundane but ever so inviting because of heartfelt talks and her undisturbed attention that made me aware of her love for me. Surely God was present there.

My mother had friends who came to her house to visit and always, the teapot appeared. God was present. As the tea was poured out, so was the Holy Spirit through words of comfort, assurance and encouragement. It was a habit of mine on a cold morning to put my hands on the tea-cosy and soak up the warmth from the teapot. In those days we didn't have central heating in the house, so we warmed ourselves anywhere there was heat. Tea and toast started the day: warmth from God and the bread of life.

You have heard the saying, 'Stop and smell the coffee'. Well in my humble opinion, you should take time to linger over a pot of tea; pour forth the Holy Spirit into a cup and share God with someone who needs comforting.

After all, what's the rush? Savour God's presence with the warmth of a 'cuppa tea' and take a long look at the teapot...

In memory of a dear friend with whom my mother shared many a cup of tea...

This is part of a meditation written by that friend and reproduced on her funeral service sheet. Elizabeth Nix

¹¹ The Refugee Crisis – Syria/Lebanon

Extracts from an article in TearTimes (Tearfund's Newsletter).

<u>Children on the Scrapheap</u> – the story of Ahed (aged 10)

'I lived through the war in Syria. We were bombed every day and everyday something was destroyed. Then our home was destroyed too'.

Ahed is one of 5 million Syrians to flee their country. 1.25 million are in Lebanon - a third of the country's population and half of this number are children. Originally from Homs in Syria, Ahed now lives in a makeshift shelter in the Bekaa Valley in Lebanon.

'We've been here for 5 years but I'm not happy. We live in dirt and rubbish but at least it's peaceful and my parents are safe.' I used to go to school but the bus doesn't come any more. I wish I was back in Syria as I want to go back to school.'

The UN Refugee Agency estimates that two thirds of refugee children don't attend school regularly. If the situation doesn't improve, when peace comes, Syria may be left with a lost under-educated generation.

Tearfund partner, Heart of Lebanon, is organising Christians to distribute essential food and hygiene parcels to displaced families like Ahed's. He says:

'I love the food parcel. I thank God for it. I love the cheese and tins of meat. My Mum is a great cook and makes delicious things with it'. His Mum says 'Thanks to the food parcel, we have money left over to pay for medical treatment and to buy fresh fruit for the children'.

Please continue to pray for people displaced by the conflict in Syria and other countries around the world including Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq and South Sudan. Pray also for those to helping to support them.

KEY FACTS

- Parish Share increase 1.75%
- Cost of Ministry for 2017 £52,760, an increase of 1.50%
- Church Commissioners support of £2.226m (2nd highest in the country). Additional £700,000 Transitional Funding
- £0.476m invested into Investing in Mission
- Deployment reduced by 6 posts
- Parish Share below 70% of Budget income at 67.15% (2016 iV 67.89%)
- Central Statutory and Admin costs 6.04%. Admin alone is 3.40%
- 77% Expenditure directly back to parishes

Additional Funding From the Commissioners

The Church Commissioners have allocated in total £2.96m to the Diocese. £1.75m is allocated to support the Parish Share. £0.734m is paid in 2017 for transitional purposes and must be spent by the end of 2019. Finally there is £0.477m that is available for investing in Mission across the Diocese.

The Finance Department Phone: 01543 – 306054 Email: finance@lichfield.anglican.org Website: www.lichfield.anglican.org



New Year Word Search

TCHOLIDAYTHOSBMSLLEBWCYWISHRUFOERRAGLAFARTLUASRESEYTAVHUEYTIRBELECNVNNRAUDLOYAIJEEUOOACPJTMYTQOYNLPOSNUSSIKGOAWENGAPMAHCHBFCHIMEALKL											
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(Sorry for error in January's magazine - this is the correct square! DB)

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.

TRAFALGAR SQUARE HAPPY NEW YEAR JANUARY HOLIDAY CHURCH CHIME LANG SYNE FESTIVE AULD **KISS** WISH CHAMPAGNE BELLS TWELVEOCLOCK MERRY BIG BEN CELEBRITY HONOURSLIST Happy New Year, Arthur

Our trip to Uganda

(From Jonathan and Robinah Beesigomwe)

In our October letter, our prayer was to raise enough support to go to Uganda by December 2016. God did it. One encouraging prayer came from missionary Cecilia Wilding shortly before she went to be with the Lord. In her we lost a mother and a bigger sister in missionary work. We shall miss her greatly. Her soul rests in peace. We had not taken Jonathan Junior to Uganda in fourteen years to know his country. God used His own as you prayed and we were there between the 24th November and 15 December 2016. The love of friends and relatives was so warming for him that he even grew taller. Amazing!

One highlight was meeting my former students who are now key decision makers in the affairs of our Nation Uganda.

I do not know what role they will play in our life and Ministry but there was a sense that seeds planted over twenty five years ago should be ready to give a harvest.

We need a home to return to and a ministry and more. One of them, a lawyer came to our rescue and with some of them in critical professions, like construction. May the Lord mobilise them for this. We feel ready to go home.

In conclusion, we are ready to be called back home by those who sent us if they still care about missions. Our desire is again to redeem our land, from those who thought we will never come home again, build a home, and have facilities for ministry. As for our work in Botswana, we are ready to give it to the Lord of the harvest to send more labourers. Matthew 9:35 – 38 still rings a bell in our hearts.

You may be the one God uses to replace us and or to settle us back home and the ministry we shall do are now in God's hand. And may be yours too.

Faithfully yours: Jonathan & Robinah Beesigomwe

IMPORTANT MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION.

A MEETING of the members of Christ Church congregation was held on Wednesday,' January 21st, 1885, at 7.30 p.m., in the Infant Schoolroom. There was a good attendance. The Vicar took the chair, and was supported by the Rev. A. Pearman, and the churchwardens, Mr. J. Timmis, and Mr. F. Adie. The object of the meeting was to discuss and to decide upon "Sittings". Here three chief suggestions were made :—

(1) That the centre portion of the church should be considered as "reserved," in general, for those members of the congregation who before held "pews." In lieu of "Pew rents," a " Churchwardens' List " to be opened, and members invited to add their names for amounts as they felt called upon to give. This was for the purpose of making up the £100 per annum, before derived from pew-rents, as part of the income of the Vicar.

(2) "That the old system of renting sittings be resorted to."(3) "That the church be entirely free and open."

Mr. J. Timmis proposed, and Mr. Lament seconded, " That the church be 'free and open,' and that it be tried as an experiment for one year." This was unanimously carried. And so the matter is now amicably settled.

THE CHURCH

By the time these lines reach you, the Restoration of the Church will be an accomplished fact. The work is now rapidly drawing to an end, and all will be quite ready by the time appointed by the Bishop for the re-opening.

It may interest our general readers to hear what the nature and extent of these alterations have been. A new chancel has been built, together with an organ chamber on the north side, and a clergy vestry on the south side. The chancel is fitted up with oak choir seats and clergy-desk of a very neat and simple design, and the floor laid with Minton's tiles. A new stone pulpit has been placed in the body of the church, for which our grateful thanks are due to a member of the congregation, who undertook to collect the money required for it.

(continued)

¹⁶ Christ Church 132 years ago (cont)

The entire body of the church has been re-arranged. The old pews have been removed, and a centre aisle made. We have now open seats. The old east window has gone to fill up the west, and the organ and choir have quitted the gallery. The whole of the interior has been cleaned and coloured, and great improvements have been made both in the lighting and heating of the church.

The re-opening will mark a new era in the history of our parish. But we are far from wishing it to end here. We want it to mark a new beginning in the spiritual life of the Church—of each member. Many of us, like the church, need the renovating power of the Holy Spirit. Let us take a copy from this earthly fabric, and come back to our beautified house of prayer, with renewed love, fresh zeal, and a more complete sense of dedication to the service of Almighty God. So, too, with our various organizations. Let there be a infusion of new life, and an expansion of their usefulness.

Messages to the preacher

Which way to heaven?

Reverend Billy Graham tells of a time early in his ministry when he arrived in a small town to preach a sermon. Wanting to mail a letter, he asked a young boy where the post office was. When the boy had told him, Dr. Graham thanked him and said, "If you'll come to the Baptist Church this evening, you can hear me telling everyone how to get to heaven."

The boy replied, "I don't think I'll be there... You don't even know your way to the post office."

The Ten Commandments

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to "honour thy father and thy mother," she asked,"Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?"

Without missing a beat one little boy answered, "Thou shall not kill." *Ron Fox*

REGISTERS AND ROTAS

SIDESPERSONS ROTA

	AM	
5 th February	D. Shemilt	K. Woodward
	L. Fforde	D. Davies
12th February	D. Wilson	P. Roberts
	D. Pickles	P. Kelly
19th February	J. Abrahams	J. Bowes
	A. Smith	R. Brandon
26th February	E. Kingman	G. Leithead
	G. Holden	G. Latos



FLOWER ROTA

5th February 12th February 19th February 26th February Mrs M. Hutchinson Mrs J. Booth Mrs M. Hillman Flower Guild

ROADS FOR PRAYER

5th February

Chestnut Grove Edward Street Field Terrace Field House Court



12th February

Kent Grove Meaford Avenue Mount Avenue Mount Crescent

19th February Mount Road Mount Street Old Road Stonefield Court 26th February

Stonefield Square Victor Street Victoria Street Whitebridge Lane

Groups and Activities

Deanery Synod Reps P.C.C. Members	Helen Bowes 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 Treasurer	Shelagh Sanders			
Envelopes, Gift Aid	Richard Latos			
GROUPS AND AC	CTIVITIES			
Climbers 3-7 years				
Explorers 7-11 years	Estella Woodhead761659			
Banner Group	Jeanette Rowlands261199			
Church Missionary Bo	xes Church Office			
Flower Guild	Marylyn Hillman815936			
Prayer Group	Jeanette Rowlands261199			
Parents & Toddlers	Sandra Morray286093			
(Mon 9.30 – 11.15am)				
3rd Stone Brownies	Janet Smith			

(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 yearsJunior Church 7-13 yearsThe following activities take place every week week in the Centre during term time.Monday Toddlers9.30 amBreathe (years 5-8) Monday6:30 pmKingzone (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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