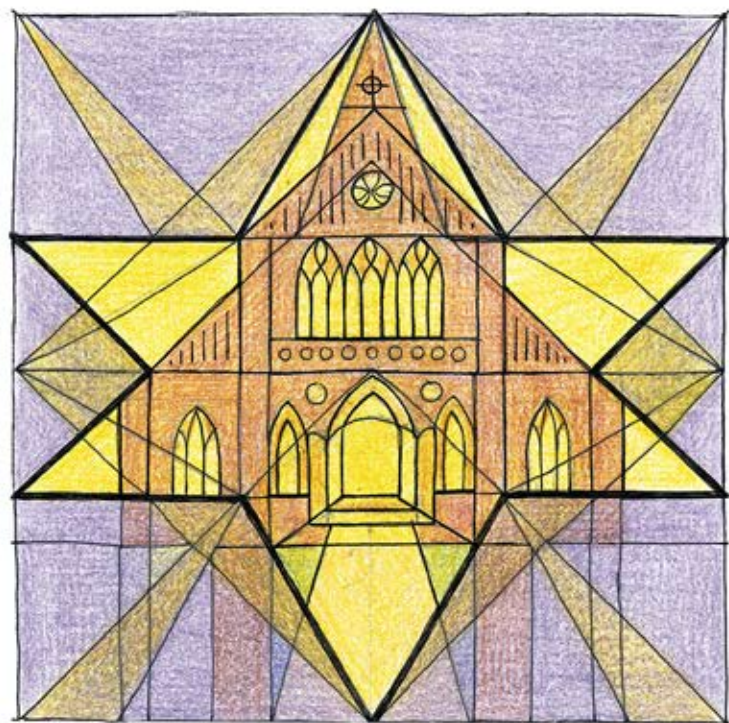


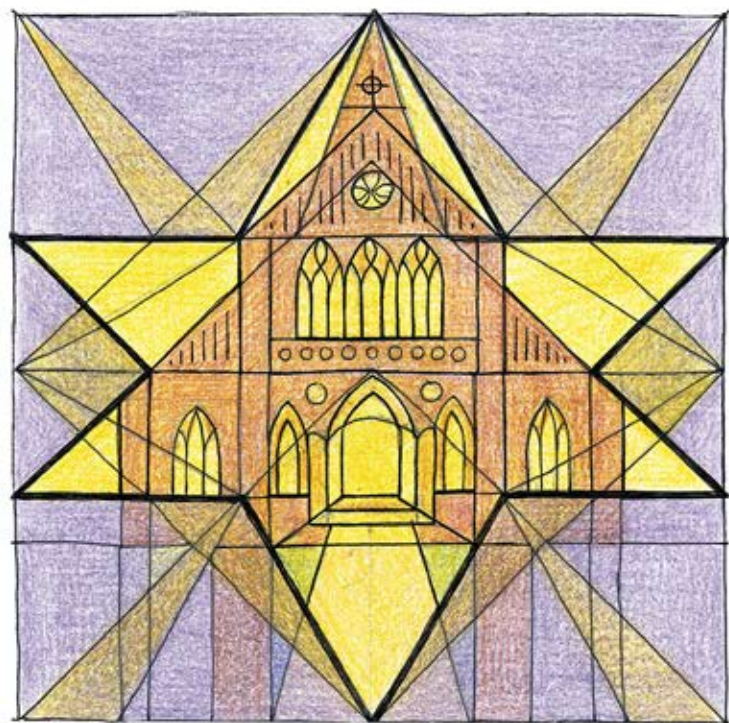
# Parish Magazine of Christ Church Stone



Christ Church  
and people  
December 2017



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# Christ Church



# and People

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

Cover Picture:-

by George Holden

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:

**Church Office 01785 811990**

# December 2017

Fri	1	10:00 am	CE Coffee morning
Sat	2	8:30 am 6:00 pm	Prayer meeting followed by breakfast An Evening in Advent
Sun	3	9:15 am 6:00 pm	Communion; Romans 13:8-14 "Ready and dressed for service" Seven Great Journeys
Mon	4	9:30 am 6:30 pm	Toddler Group Breathe yrs 5-8
Tue	5	10:00 am 12:30 pm 6:30 pm 7:00 pm	Coffee before midweek service; service at 10:30 Seekers Club Stone & Eccleshall Guides' Carol Service Youth Club
Wed	6	9:00 am 6:00 pm	Christ Church First School assembly KingZone yrs 2-4
Thu	7	10:30 am 1:20 pm	Open prayer time in church Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	8	10:00 am	CE Coffee morning
Sat	9		
Sun	10	9:15 am 6:00 pm	Morning Prayer; Romans 15:1-13 "Hope promised and praised" Seven Great Journeys
Mon	11	9:30 am 6:30 pm	Toddler Group Breathe yrs 5-8
Tue	12	10:00 am 12:30 pm 3:00 pm 7:00 pm	Coffee before midweek service; service at 10:30 Seekers Club Autumn House Youth Club
Wed	13	9:00 am 6:00 pm 6:00 pm	Christ Church First School assembly KingZone yrs 2-4 Christ Church First School nativity
Thu	14	10:30 am 1:20 pm	Open prayer time in church Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	15	10:00 am	CE Coffee morning

Sat	16	4:00 pm	Crafts and Christingle service
Sun	17	9:15 am 5:00 pm	Communion; 1 Corinthians 4:1-5 “Entrusted with the Gospel” Nine lessons and carols by candlelight
Mon	18	7:00 pm	Christ Church Academy concert
Tue	19	10:45 am	Christ Church Academy Christmas service
Wed	20		
Thu	21		
Fri	22		
Sat	23	9:30 am 11:00 am	Advent Windows trail and carol singing, starting from Lock Keepers salon Advent Window No. 23- Christ Church
Sun	24	9:15 am 11:00 pm	Family Nativity service Romans 16:25-27 “All has been revealed” Late night carols and Communion service
Mon	25	9:15 am	Christmas Day Family Communion Matthew 2:1-12 “We’ve come to worship him”
Tue	26		
Wed	27		
Thu	28		
Fri	29		
Sat	30		
Sun	31	11:00 am	Joint service of Carol Praise at St. John’s, Oulton

Details of Advent Windows 1 to 23 can be found on pages 6 and 7, and George’s Advent Trail map is on the back cover.

We hope that many of you can join us for the Carol Singing Walk and the final Advent Window opening on Saturday December 23<sup>rd</sup>, starting at 9.30am at the Lock-Keepers salon and ending at Christ Church at 11.00am for refreshments.

## Hope has come!

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Life brings many changes. What has been the biggest change in your life? It could be owning a property, getting your first dog, having a new set of teeth, the birth of a child, even a change of career or meeting your future marriage partner. We don't at first always realize the full impact of such a change, even if the immediate change was a really big shift in our worldview. Over time, differences emerge and have a knock-on effect on other people's lives too. How things once were are not how things are now, nor how things will be in the future.

Meeting Jesus changes everything. The bible describes this encounter as being the arrival of hope. So, in describing the change to the followers of Jesus in Ephesus the readers are reminded of life before knowing Jesus: *'remember that at one time you were separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel, strangers to the covenant of promise, having no hope and without God in the world'* (Ephesians 2v12). Living without hope leads to some extreme actions being taken in order to try and make sense of life and give meaning to our daily existence. A lack of hope is directly linked to a life lived without God in the world. What will sustain us through hardships and trials? What enables us to endure?

The rest of the sentence highlights the arrival of hope that Christ brings: *'But now in Christ Jesus you who were once far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ'* (Eph 2v13). It's an amazing sentence! We can know God. We can know the comfort and enjoyment of being in His presence. This astounding news is at the heart of what we celebrate at Christmas. We prepare for it with the help of our community Advent Windows project and then also at our special Christmas services. When Jesus was born in Bethlehem he was called *'Immanuel – which means God with us'* (Matthew 1v23). That means hope has come. It's not wishful thinking that will soon be disillusioned by reality. It is not a fairy tale that we grow out of. This is the message direct from heaven to earth. You are invited to join our celebrations to discover more about the hope that Jesus brings. Details of Christmas services are found on page 16.

Wishing you a merry Christmas as you learn more of this great hope.

*Paul Kingman*



## **The Armoury - Board Game**

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I am so excited to tell you about this project I have been working on. The Armoury is a Bible board game that is designed to familiarise young people with God's Word and encourage family Bible devotions and reading in the home. I hope this Christmas you will be able to play it with your family and grow in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

You can download the game to print for free at [thearmouryboardgame.com](http://thearmouryboardgame.com) otherwise I can print you a copy including lamination for £5.

*- Sean Bradford*

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## **Carol Singing**

Carol singing around the wards at both Royal Stoke and County Hospitals will take place on the evening of

**MONDAY 18<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER**

If you would like to come and join in this wonderful opportunity to minister to those in hospital at this time and share the meaning of Christmas in song, please speak with me for more details. In previous years those who have been say they received every bit as much as they gave!

*Dave Rowlands*

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## **Ride and Stride, September 2017**

Many of you sponsored Helen and Sheila for their effort for the Historic Churches "Ride and Stride" day in September. Half the sponsor money is used by the charity to maintain historic churches in the diocese and half your sponsor money comes back to our parish. This year that amounts to just over £200. Helen cycled through rain and sunshine, Sheila visited country churches, walking. Our thanks to them.

With a reminder next year, perhaps a few more people would be interested in taking part - it is usually on the second Saturday in September.

*Dorothy*



## Advent Windows Calendar

<b>Date</b>	<b>Host</b>	<b>Creator</b>
1 <sup>st</sup>	Co-op Funeral	St Michael's First School
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Stone Library	Hub Craft Group
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Crown & Anchor	Meaford Fields Day Nursery
4 <sup>th</sup>	Dunoon	Dunoon
5 <sup>th</sup>	Simply Petals	Oaktree Farm
6 <sup>th</sup>	Lock- keepers salon	St Dominic's Primary
7 <sup>th</sup>	Shear Genius	Christ Church Academy
8 <sup>th</sup>	Home and Colour	Alleyne's
9 <sup>th</sup>	The Lounge	Meaford Day Nursery
10 <sup>th</sup>	The Mill Restaurant	Oulton Church
11 <sup>th</sup>	Mayfairs	Oulton First School
12 <sup>th</sup>	Cats Protection	Christ Church First School
13 <sup>th</sup>	John Burton's	Pirehill First School
14 <sup>th</sup>	Katherine House	Walton Priory
15 <sup>th</sup>	The Royal Exchange	St Dominc's Priory School
16 <sup>th</sup>	Outdoor Pursuits	Smarty's Day Nursery
17 <sup>th</sup>	Star Inn	Women's Institute
18 <sup>th</sup>	Maison Jacqueline	Oulton Playgroup
19 <sup>th</sup>	Children's Society	Trinity Skills for Life
20 <sup>th</sup>	Mviron Phone shop	Little Stars
21 <sup>st</sup>	Stone Pharmacy	Mumbles
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Peter Bowers Opticians	Giggles and Wiggles
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Christ Church	Christ Church

<b>Character</b>	<b>Carol</b>
Isaiah	Unto us a child is born
Elizabeth	What child is this?
Zechariah	O come all ye faithful
John	Go tell it on the mountain
Nazareth	On Christmas night all Christians sing
The Angel Gabriel	Angels from the Realms of Glory
Mary	The virgin Mary had a baby boy
Joseph	Joy to the world
Caesar Augustus	Silent Night
Donkey	Little Donkey
Bethlehem	O little town of Bethlehem
Innkeeper	In the bleak midwinter
Jesus	Little Jesus sweetly sleep
Sheep	While shepherds watched
Angels	Hark the herald angels sing
Shepherds	The First Nowell
Cattle/Ox	Away in a manger
Wise men	As with gladness
Herod	Unto us a boy is born
Star	It was on a starry night
Camels	We three kings
Simeon	I saw three ships
Whole cast, Nativity scene, bells	Once in Royal David's City Ding dong merrily on high

## Hospital Notes 6

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One of the fascinating aspects of being a Chaplaincy Volunteer is that I meet many people – each one different with a different story to tell.

Recently in conversation with a patient I was told...

*"I am frightened and struggling with my faith. Why is it that I feel deserted by God at a time when I need Him most?"*

That is quite a challenging question that is not easy to answer; especially in a way that doesn't sound trite (like saying 'trust in God, He's in charge') to someone who is having great difficulty physically, emotionally and spiritually.

The best response that I was able to make was to say...

*"Yes, Jesus does understand what is happening and the feelings connected with the circumstances because He, Himself, has experienced the full range of emotions and struggles that anyone can ever go through. In particular, when on the cross in the midst of the agony and anguish of crucifixion He felt totally deserted by people and by God as He cried out...*

***'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?'***

*...and later as He died*

***'Father, into Your hands I commit my spirit'.***

*But remember Jesus wasn't forsaken – it's only that it felt that way."*

When we had finished talking I prayed that the person might receive an assurance and an awareness of God's presence, care and love, and also for the peace that only God can give through Jesus Christ.

I felt inadequate in all this, but thankful when I was told that our talk and the prayers had helped and left the patient feeling more at ease.

As I moved on to the next person I was going to see, I reflected on how humbling it is to be allowed into the deepest parts of someone's thoughts and feelings at a most difficult time in their life.

*Dave Rowlands*

<h2>Mission Prayer Diary</h2>	
	<i>Kieran and Ashley McKnight are with Emmanuel Church in UAE. People in the Church come from many countries. Kieran of course was Youth Minister at Christ Church .</i>
1 <sup>st</sup>	We have heard of no response yet to the request for Emmanuel Church to be registered officially. Kieran and pastor Steve have visited the palace . Please continue to pray. Recognition is essential for any permissions, bank accounts etc.
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Christmas in the desert is a strange experience, and Christmas Day is a normal working day. Pray for Keiran and Ashley to feel the significance of the day just as much as they would in Scotland or Ireland.
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Pray for Emmanuel Church, working mainly among ex-pats working temporarily in UAE.
4 <sup>th</sup>	Pray for good health for Kieran and Ashley. Medical treatment can be expensive and difficult to arrange.
	<i>Barnabas Fund - Aid agency for the persecuted church</i>
5 <sup>th</sup>	Please pray for God's guidance and protection on Barnabas Fund's new programme to free Christian bonded labourers in Pakistan's brick kilns. The families are lgally tied to their Muslim employer because of old debts.
6 <sup>th</sup>	A Pakistani Christian has been sentenced to death because of a WhatsApp message he sent. Nadeem James, a tailor, was accused of ridiculing Muhammad
7 <sup>th</sup>	The Islamabad High Court has suggested that Pakistan's National assembly should amend the blasphemy law by fixing a punishment for false accusation. The law is currently misused as a weapon by anyone with a grudge. Pray that this amendment will be passed.

8 <sup>th</sup>	Aideen Strandsson is a well-known Iranian actress who has become a Christian and has travelled to Sweden. She may be deported back to Iran. Pray that she will be kept safe.
	<i>Scripture Union publishes Bible-based materials</i>
9 <sup>th</sup>	“The First Christmas” is a new booklet produced this year; it is being distributed widely to children
10 <sup>th</sup>	Pray for training courses for school ministry and children’s work in churches, which are held all over the UK
11 <sup>th</sup>	The “Artless Theatre Company” creates performances that present a fresh perspective on Christianity
12 <sup>th</sup>	Bible reading notes are published for several age groups, and help us to work our way through the Bible. Have you got yours for January?
	<i>Tim and Kate Lee helped to set up JigSaw Kids Ministries in Manila (Philippines). Now they live in the UK but still support and fund-raise for JigSaw. They are our CMS Link Missionaries</i>
13 <sup>th</sup>	Pray for Lendhel, who is chairperson of Jigsaw Ministries, and Jenalee, one of the social workers, as they face daily difficulties in poor areas of Manila.
14 <sup>th</sup>	As Jigsaw employs many local people and looks after hundreds of children, pray that all these activities will be managed effectively
15 <sup>th</sup>	Children are still sleeping and living on the streets of Manila. Pray that Jigsaw can rescue more of them.
16 <sup>th</sup>	Pray for the Family Centres, which are places where young people can “meet with God and meet together, belong with God and belong together”

	<i>Jonathan and Robinah Beesigomwe live in Gaborone, Botswana. Their organisation is “Bows and Arrows Ministry”, and they work with older schoolchildren and young adults. Please pray about–</i>
17 <sup>th</sup>	In November, 2017, we shall be back in Francistown using the same transport method for training and Launching of the ministry there Sunday. Pray for this new ministry to grow.
18 <sup>th</sup>	We have also appointed coordinators for Ghanzi (700km West of Gaborone) and one for Maun (close to 1000km North). We may start training in Ghanzi in December 9, 2017 and Maun in January..
19 <sup>th</sup>	In Gaborone, we are introducing Foundations for Farming for children and Youth this year. It's main objective is to help children receive God's word in a context that touches them deeply - unemployment, food security etc while they are still young. Pray for stronger partnerships.
20 <sup>th</sup>	The girls would like to come home early next year. Pray for logistics.
	<i>Tear Fund prayer requests</i>
21 <sup>st</sup>	The catastrophic flooding in August left more than 1,200 people dead across India, Bangladesh and Nepal. It is estimated that 41 million people have been affected by the devastation.
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Tearfund and its partners were quick to respond as nearly 750,000 homes were destroyed or damaged. Crops and livestock were washed away. Now that the floods have receded, they are continuing to bring help to where it is needed.
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Tearfund plans to provide more assistance to help households recover. This includes seeds and fertilisers to farmers, cash grants to buy foods and house repairing materials, educational materials for schools, portable stoves and ovens and safe drinking water
24 <sup>th</sup>	<p><b><u>Please pray</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For Tearfund staff and partners who are involved in response and recovery work.</li> <li>• For funding to reach those most in need.</li> </ul>

	<i>Mission Aviation Fellowship run a small fleet of aircraft flying church workers, medical teams and missionaries into very remote areas in Africa, Papua New Guinea and Asia</i>
25 <sup>th</sup>	MAF Technology Services are providing basic computer training for pastors and church leaders in Papua New Guinea
26 <sup>th</sup>	MAF is flying cargoes of special high-energy foods to South Sudan for small children suffering from malnutrition
27 <sup>th</sup>	Medair operates a 24-hour maternity facility at the Yusuf Batil camp for Sudanese refugees in the far northeast corner of South Sudan. MAF has been supporting Medair's work in Maban since they started in 2012.
28 <sup>th</sup>	MAF flew a pair of conjoined twins from a remote Congo village to Kinshasa for an operation to separate them. The twins were born normally (!) and survived the operation. Pray for the work in Democratic Republic of Congo.
	<i>The Church Mission Society works in 49 countries</i>
29 <sup>th</sup>	Andrea Campanale visits new age fairs in the UK and talks to people seeking spiritual experiences. She guides them towards faith in Jesus.
30 <sup>th</sup>	Catriona and Stephen Bennett work as surgeons in Gahini Hospital, Rwanda. They hope that, using their medical skills, they will be able to share God's love with the people there.
31 <sup>st</sup>	Alex and Jane Cacouris work in Rio Janeiro. Alex is associate chaplain at Christ Church, and Jane works with water and sanitation.

## **Bows and Arrows Ministry in Gaborone and Francistown**

Dear Christ Church,

How great to hear from you. Glad you are well and so many people can be in church for harvest.

We are well and still trusting God for each day. Ministry is as good as it can be. This year we opened an office in the second City of Botswana Francistown. The Coordinator is a missionary Pastor originally from Zimbabwe and married to a Motswana lady. He is Pastor Tafirenyika Usavi by Name. We have had two training Sunday School Teachers and Youth leaders. Its been exciting. We get on a night train on Friday leaving Gaborone at 2100 hours arriving at 0600 hours. We do training from 0800 to 1700 hours and get on the train at 2100 hours and arrive at 0600 in Gaborone Sunday morning. The train is like the bus with fewer bumps. We have mainly used the second class which provides more legroom than third class. We used third class once because there were no seats in second. We are praying we use the first one of these trips.

Francistown celebrates 120 years this year. It has always benefited from Zimbabwe especially for trade having more people across. Unfortunately it is a mining town but mines are closing. The Zimbabwe economy too is improving and both countries do not allow free trade. So some expatriates are moving back to Gaborone. We pray it is temporary.

Prayer item: 1. On November 18 and 19, 2017, we were back in Francistown using the same transport method for training and Launching of the ministry there Sunday.

2. We have also appointed coordinators for Ghanzi (700km West of Gaborone) and one for Maun (close to 1000km North). We may start training in Ghanzi in December 9, 2017 and Maun in January.

3. In Gaborone, we are introducing Foundations for Farming for children and Youth this year. It's main objective is to help children receive God's word in a context that touches them deeply - unemployment, food security etc while they are still young. Pray for stronger partnerships.

*(continued)*



4. The girls would like to come home early next year. Pray for logistics.

5. The car from the dealer is still available but still need to pay U\$1200 for even a better car than he had promised. Thank God Faith Car still moves at least around.

May the Lord continue to bless you.

Love to the church family,

*Jonathan and Robinah*

*(Since Jonathan wrote, there has been a military coup in Zimbabwe, just across the border from Francistown)*

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### Heaven, How I Got Here...

Are you looking for a book to give to someone who does not yet know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour? A book that avoids hefty biblical quotations and theological debate?

In his book *Heaven, How I Got Here*, Colin S Smith imagines what the thief might have thought and felt as he hung on the cross next to Jesus. He goes on to describe the agony of separation from God and the joy of being in 'heaven'. This easy-to-read, but compelling first-person account, puts into perspective what it means to die in hope, knowing that you have been forgiven and promised a place in heaven with Jesus...

*"I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise"*  
 Luke 23:43

The book is less than 100 pages in length, but once you start reading it is almost impossible to stop before you get to the end of the story. It is both challenging and thought provoking, and well worth reading before you give it away. *Heaven, How I Got Here* (Christian Focus Publications) is available from various on-line bookshops including 10ofthose and WorldofBooks.

*Elizabeth*

## **Oulton with Christ Church Mothers Union**

### **September**

In September, the Church and church room were closed for replastering, so we held the meeting at Prue's home. This was a Discussion Meeting, when we look back at different aspects of the Mothers Union and it's work in different parts of the world. We also discuss what we, as a small elderly group, can do to help.

### **October**

In October our speaker for our meeting was Andrea Butler who has been several times before and is an old friend of our Group. This time she talked to us about her younger sister who, with her family, emigrated to New Zealand around twenty years ago. Andrea and her late husband made many visits together and enjoyed exploring many parts of both the North and South islands, as well as visiting her sister's growing family.

Today's talk concentrated largely on Andrea's great nephew, little red-haired Caleb, who is now aged 6. After Caleb's birth it became apparent that his development was very slow and he was eventually diagnosed with "Angelman's Syndrome" - a rare genetic disorder. Andrea spends some of the winter months with Caleb and his family and they are very much "best friends." It was heart warming to hear of his slow progress, learning to walk by the age of 3 and now at 6 starting at school which he is enjoying. He now has a younger brother and sister who call him "No No", as they prevent him doing things that might harm him.

An inspiring talk which made us realise how a handicapped life can produce so much love and caring around it. Our grateful thanks to Andrea, and we will look forward to hearing more of Caleb's progress in the future.

*Prue Fairbairn*

# <sup>16</sup>**Christmas services in the United Benefice**

of Christ Church, Stone and Oulton with Moddershall

We would love to see you join in celebrating Christmas with us. Throughout December we have the community Advent Windows opening daily at 11am. We also hold special Christmas services that we hope you can attend. As the well-known carol "O come all ye faithful" puts it, we come together to adore Jesus – the one who was born the king of angels! Jesus, the Son of God, came from heaven to earth so that we may go from earth to heaven. So, we extend our invitation to the community to celebrate that Jesus has made God known.

## Christmas at Christ Church, Stone

Sat 16 <sup>th</sup>	4.00 pm	Christingle crafts & service.
Sun 17 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 am	Holy Communion
	5.00 pm	Carol service
Sat 23 <sup>rd</sup>	9.30 am	Advent Windows Trail
Sun 24 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 am	Nativity & Window No.24
	11.00 pm	Carols and communion
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 am	Christmas Day Family Communion
Sun 31 <sup>st</sup>	<i>Joint service at Oulton church</i>	
Sun 7 <sup>th</sup> Jan	11.00 am	Joint service Communion (followed by bring and share lunch)

## Christmas at Oulton with Moddershall

Sun 17 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Holy Communion at Oulton.
	11.00 am	Morning Prayer Moddershall
	7.00 pm	Carol service at Oulton
Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup>	8.00 pm	Carol service at Moddershall
Sun 24 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Morning Prayer at Oulton
Mon 25 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Christmas Day Family Communion at Oulton.
Sun 31 <sup>st</sup>	11.00 am	Carol Praise at Oulton church
Sun 7 <sup>th</sup> Jan		Joint service at Christ Church, Stone (followed by bring and share lunch)

## 17 The Topsy-turvy World of Christian Living!

Most of us have had one of those moments that we would rather forget...but can't. Flicking the duster round carelessly, you break the beautiful pottery vase that has been in the family for generations. In a hurry to get home on a clear road, you get caught by the Camera Safety Team (53 MPH in a 40 MPH area). I am sure you know the sort of thing I mean.

You then replay the event over and over again in your mind with phrases like "if only...", "what if I had just been a bit more careful"...and so on.

It's the "and so on" that's the real problem! The event is replayed in our minds like a continuous record. We try not to think about it, but it keeps coming back. It's a real battle.

In Revelation 12:10ff the writer describes the war in heaven and we read -

*"Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down".*

The problem we face is that the accuser will keep at it "day and night". However, we must remember that the fantastic news is that accuser has no real power. Jesus Christ has the controlling power and he willingly lets us share in it.

Now, when these recurring, accusatory thoughts occur, use them as a springboard for a specific prayer which you repeat as soon as the thought comes back into your mind. For example in the case of the smashed vase you could pray for someone you know whose life is broken at the moment. Every time you remember what you did they will be prayed for!

So the bad memory becomes an aid to prayer, and if the accuser has anything to do with the ongoing nagging self recrimination, transforming the memory into a specific prayer in this way, will soon remind him that ....*"The accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down."*

It may seem a "topsy-turvy" idea but it has the effect of diminishing the power of the guilty memory, and at the same time moving us on in prayer.

*Roger M Vaughan*

## **South Asia Floods – Update**

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Our Tearfund Appeal at Harvest supported the South Asia Floods Emergency Appeal.

£871.50 was raised (including gift aid). Thank you for your donations.

The catastrophic flooding in August left more than 1,200 people dead across India, Bangladesh and Nepal. It is estimated that 41 million people have been affected by the devastation.

Tearfund and its partners were quick to respond as nearly 750,000 homes were destroyed or damaged. Crops and live-stock were washed away. Now that the floods have receded, they are continuing to bring help to where it is needed.

In Bangladesh, a nation also coping with a large influx of refugees from Myanmar, partners LAMB and Baptist Aid gave out essential life saving items. These included water bottles, water purification tablets and hygiene kits for women and adolescent girls, as well as medical support.

### **Case Study**

During the flooding in Bangladesh, Bibha's house was washed away. The family were able to shelter in a neighbour's house. She and her eldest daughter fell ill with a fever but the roads had been destroyed so they couldn't get to the health centre for help. Bibha watched her daughter slowly deteriorating. A LAMB medical team set up a camp in her village and they received treatment. Bibha says 'Now we are both fine – I thank LAMB for their generous and timely support. Without them I couldn't have saved my daughter.' (*Cecilia set up a nurse training course at LAMB hospital.*)

Tearfund plans to provide more assistance to help households recover. This includes provision of seeds and fertilisers to farmers, cash grants to buy foods and house repairing materials, educational materials for schools, portable stoves and ovens and safe drinking water points.

### **Please pray**

For Tearfund staff and partners who are involved in response and recovery work.

For funding to reach those most in need.

## **Christ Church 132 years ago**

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### 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.C.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.

### CHURCH EXTENSIONS, 1885

*(from the history by Rev J R Line)*

The Rev W J Thompson introduced a scheme for the restoration of the church. The issue of this movement was the building of a new chancel, the re-seating of the organ (the gift of Mrs Foden, of Edge Hill) from the gallery to the chancel, the erection of a new pulpit, and other minor improvements. This work was effectually carried out in 1885. A brass lectern was presented by Misses Masefield, and a font was given two years later as the children's memorial of the Queen's Jubilee in 1887. About this time also the Stonefield School was enlarged, and a new wall erected fronting the Vicarage and Churchyard in Radford Street.

The Rev W J Thompson, supported by a succession of curates, re-organized the pastoral work of the parish, and for 12 years took the lead in many branches of pastoral, social, and evangelistic work, until, in 1894 he left for Holy Trinity, Leicester.

# REGISTERS AND ROTAS

## SIDESPERSIONS ROTA

		AM
3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	D. Davies	J. Kelt
	A. Smith	N. Hopkins
10 <sup>th</sup> Dec	D. Pickles	R. Brandon
	E. Kingman	P. Kelly
17 <sup>th</sup> Dec	G. Leithead	J. Abrahams
	G. Latos	G. Holden
24 <sup>th</sup> Dec	D. Wilson	K. Woodhead
	C. Reeve	K. Rein
25 <sup>th</sup> Dec	P. Roberts	D. Davies
	L. Fforde	N. Hopkins



## FLOWER ROTA

3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	Flower Guild	10 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Flower Guild
17 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Flower Guild	24 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Flower Guild

## ROADS FOR PRAYER

<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Dec</b>	<b>10<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>17<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>
Nicholls Lane	Oulton Road	Navigation Loop
Old Road	Oulton Mews	Rangeley View
Old Road Close	Princes Street	Barnton Edge
Oulton Cross	Queens Square	Anderton View/ Way
	York Street	



<b>24<sup>th</sup> Dec</b>	<b>31<sup>st</sup> Dec</b>
Bentley Close	Cressey Close
Rendel Grove	Joules Drive
Brindley Close	Cauldon Way
Rudyard Close	Harecastle Bank





<b>Deanery Synod Reps</b>	Helen Bowes
<b>P.C.C. Members</b>	Kate Latham, Irene Gassor, Pete Kelly, Sue Fox Pete Mason, Estella Woodhead Peter Rein, G. Leithead, Angela Burton Rab Shields, Louise Kelly, Debbie Hazlehurst
<b>Secretary</b>	Shelagh Sanders
<b>Treasurer</b>	
<b>Envelopes, Gift Aid</b>	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

**Prayer Group** Jeanette Rowlands.....261199

**Parents & Toddlers** Sandra Morray.....286093

(Mon 9.30 – 11.15am)

**3rd Stone Brownies** Janet Smith..... 815939

(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 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

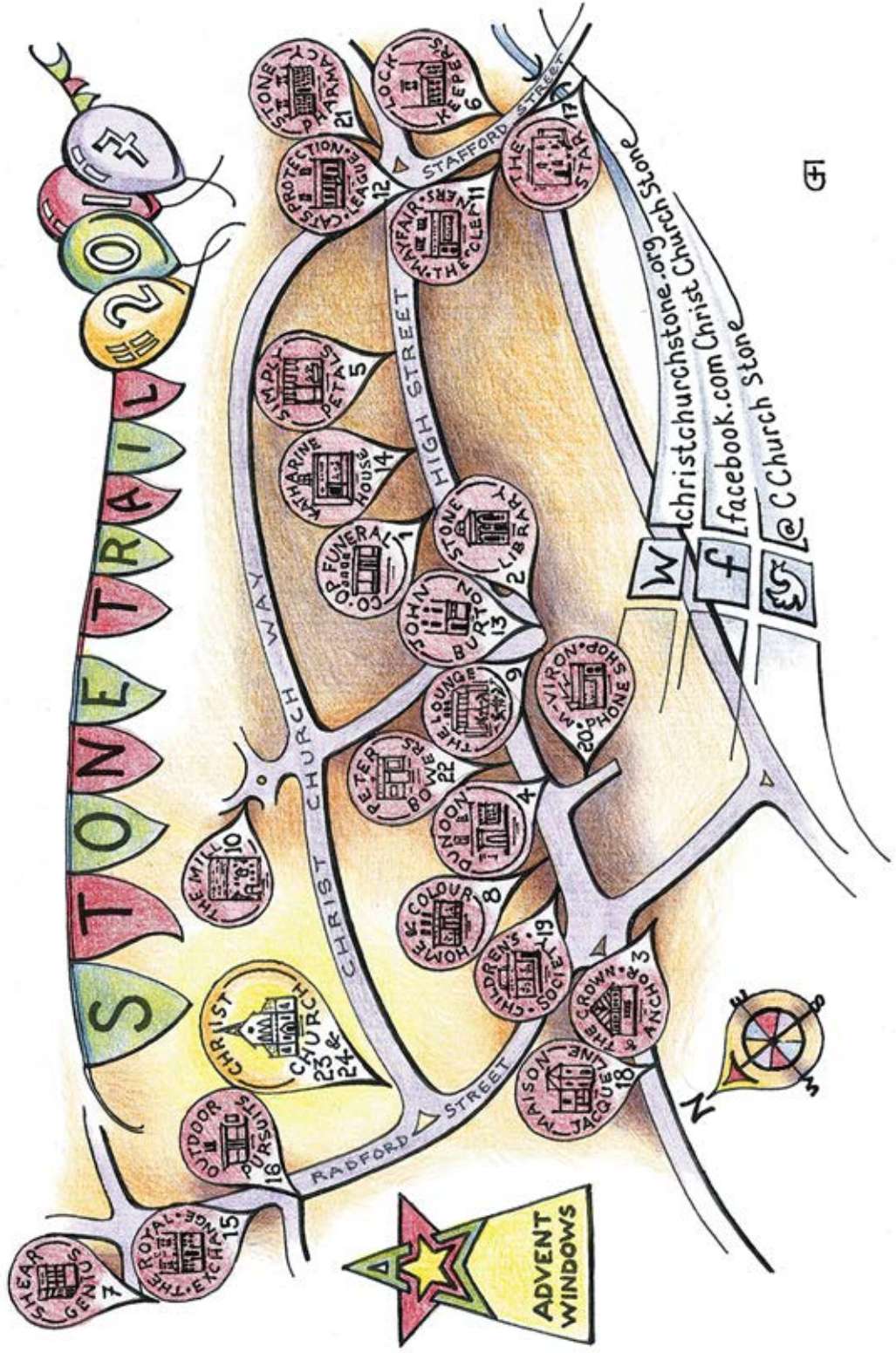
Dave Bell, c/o Christ Church Parish Office, Christ Church Way,  
Staffs ST15 8ZB or by email to christchurch\_mag@yahoo.co.uk

### Christ Church on the Internet

Parish website                      [www.christchurchstone.org](http://www.christchurchstone.org)

Parish office email                [office@christchurchstone.org](mailto:office@christchurchstone.org)

Magazine contributions         [christchurch\\_mag@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:christchurch_mag@yahoo.co.uk)



CFI