

# Christ Church and People



# November 2020

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## Christ Church



## and People

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

Cover Picture  
Stonefield Square

## PARISH DIRECTORY

### CHURCH SCHOOLS

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## Services for November

Nov 1st	<p>HOLY COMMUNION Christ Church 9:15 (Jer 18:1-23 The potter's house) <b>ZOOM CHURCH 10:30 am</b> EVENING PRAYER St John's Oulton 3 pm (James 1:1-12 Facing trials and temptations)</p>
Nov 8th	<p>MORNING PRAYER Christ Church 9:15 am Remembrance Sunday (Jer 29:1-14 Seek peace and prosperity) <b>ZOOM CHURCH 10:30 am</b> SERVICE FOR THE BEREAVED St John's Oulton 3 pm (Matt 11:25-30 Rest for the weary)</p>
Nov 15th	<p>HOLY COMMUNION Christ Church 9:15 (Jer 31:1-26 Homecoming party) <b>ZOOM CHURCH 10:30 am</b> EVENING PRAYER St John's Oulton 3 pm (James 1:13-27 Overcoming evil) SERVICE FOR THE BEREAVED Christ Church 3 pm</p>
Nov 22nd	<p>MORNING PRAYER Christ Church 9:15 (Jer 32:1-15, 36-44 Buying a field) <b>ZOOM CHURCH 10:30 am</b> HOLY COMMUNION All Saints Moddershall, 3 pm (James 2:1-13 How and why to avoid partiality)</p>
Nov 29th	<p>MORNING PRAYER Christ Church 9:15 (Jer 33:12-26 The return of the shepherd king) <b>ZOOM CHURCH 10:30 am</b> HOLY COMMUNION St John's Oulton 3 pm (2 Pet 1:1-11 God's promises made clear)</p>

## **What must we continue to do?**

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Daily life keeps on changing. It's one of the difficult challenges of the pandemic that we have to adapt and then readapt. This is a tiring process even for those people who say they like new things so as to avoid being in a rut. It might seem easier to make fewer plans, so as to avoid wasting effort if all changes. But then that can lead to not making decisions or to delay taking action. There is the pull of wanting to turn back the clock to "how things used to be" with a longing for the old normal. The new normal is a hassle. How can we remain motivated?

The idea of motivation and perseverance are important to following Jesus. This is a significant theme in Hebrews, a New Testament letter to people facing challenges and feeling disheartened. Those who were born Jews but became followers of Jesus were evidently struggling. They longed to go back to how things once were. Why and how are they to keep going?

Why keep going? It's because of the huge privilege of being in fellowship with God through the shed blood of Christ. This is a fabulous truth to keep in mind: "Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful" (Hebrews 10v23). We are to be a Bible reading fellowship who rejoice and pray about all that we learn of the Lord Jesus – the source of hope in the face of adversity.

How to keep going? Following Jesus is a corporate activity: "And let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds" (Heb 10v24). It's vital encouragement – the occasional prompt, the help, the inspiration of others so that we give and not only receive. But also we need to continue to meet as a local church to worship (in person, on zoom, using our recorded services): "Do not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching" (Hebrews 10v25).



*(continued)*

## **What must we continue to do?** *(cont)*

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We are committed to our local church since we are on mission together until the final Day of Judgment and Salvation draws near.

Do join us and play your part as we persevere and keep following Jesus our hope.

*Paul Kingman*

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## **One Life - What's it all about? Christianity Explored**

A seven session discipleship course which started at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday 22nd September by Zoom. Contact Paul Kingman for details if you would like to join in.

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## **Jam for the Youth Fund**

*PEAR CHUTNEY, APPLE CHUTNEY, BLACKBERRY AND APPLE JELLY and DAMSON JAM, all £2 per jar. I also still have: redcurrant jelly, redcurrant and mint jelly (both £1 for an 8oz jar), Shooting Party chutney, raspberry and rhubarb jam, Victoria plum jam, fig jam, vanilla fig jam, fig chutney, summer fruits jelly, blackcurrant jam, loganberry jam, blackcurrant and loganberry jelly, gooseberry jam and jostaberry jam (all £2 a jar). All proceeds to the benefice Youth Fund as usual. Contact Sue Kingman on 812669*



## **New Bishop of Stafford**

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The new Area Bishop of Stafford will be The Venerable Matthew Parker, who is currently serving as Archdeacon of Stoke-upon-Trent.

No 10 Downing Street announced that the Queen has approved Matthew's nomination in succession to the Right Revd Geoff Annas, who retired as Bishop of Stafford last year.

Matthew has a strong affinity to Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent having served in the area for 20 years. He will join the Area Bishops of Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury in an episcopal team led by the Bishop of Lichfield. Matthew will have responsibility for the pastoral oversight of churches, ministers and communities in the towns and villages of Stoke-on-Trent and North and East Staffordshire including Newcastle-under-Lyme, Stafford and Burton-upon-Trent.

Matthew (57) trained for ministry at Ridley Hall, Cambridge, a theological college in the evangelical tradition of the Church of England, after studying at Manchester and Cambridge Universities. Following ordination in 1988, Matthew served as curate in Twickenham, London, before various roles in Stockport, including school chaplain and team vicar. He moved to the Diocese of Lichfield in 2000 as Team Rector in Leek, also serving as Rural Dean of Leek from 2007, before becoming Archdeacon of Stoke-upon-Trent in 2013. As archdeacon, Matthew has played a major strategic role in steering the direction of travel of the diocese, and has made significant contributions to the Diocesan Boards of Finance and of Education. He also sits on the Academy Council of St Peter's CofE Academy in Stoke-upon-Trent.

By becoming a bishop, Matthew follows in the footsteps of his namesake Matthew Parker, Archbishop of Canterbury from 1559-1575, who was one of the most influential architects of Reformed Anglicanism.

*(continued)*

Matthew said: "I came to Staffordshire 20 years ago as a parish priest knowing very little about the City of Stoke and the County and have come to love this part of the world so much that I decided I needed to stay! I love the variety, the warmth, the beauty and the grit. In my new role as Bishop of Stafford, I look forward to joining with brothers and sisters in Christ as we share the good news of God's love for the world revealed in Jesus. These are challenging times, not only for the church, but for the whole of society. There is much that threatens to divide us and we are fearful about the future. My prayer is that, in partnership with others, the church in this area will continue to be a sign of unity, joy and hope."

Matthew is married to Sarah who works as a Research and Development Officer of a national charity and they have three grown-up children Sam, Lizzie and Anna. They keep a Staffordshire Bull Terrier called Bruno. Matthew plays the electric guitar when no one else is around, loves to read and listens to blues and Americana.

The Bishop of Lichfield, the Right Revd Dr Michael Ipgrave, said: "After a rigorous and testing discernment process, Matthew has been clearly discerned as the next person to serve as Area Bishop of Stafford. I value highly his firm biblical faith, strategic insight and pastoral kindness, and I know that his ministry is very widely appreciated in the Stafford Episcopal Area and wider diocese. I and my fellow bishops look forward to working with him in a new way as an episcopal colleague. Please pray for him as he prepares for this new ministry among clergy and parishes that he already knows well."

The Lord-Lieutenant of Staffordshire Ian Dudson also welcomed the appointment in a video message:

As the announcement was made, Matthew met church leaders representing various denominations in Stoke-on-Trent hosted by Pastor Marcus Chilaka at the Redeemed Christian Church of God for which he is National Ecumenical Officer and Pastor Alison Price, who has just been appointed lead pastor of Potter's Methodist Church as well as key anglican clergy, Revd Shaun Morris (area dean) and Revd Andrew Wickens (rector, Stoke Minster).

*(continued)*

Following an interview with Lamont Howie for BBC Radio Stoke, he met civic leaders for Staffordshire at St Mary's Church in Stafford:

Charles Bagot Jewitt (High Sheriff of Staffordshire)

Revd Preb Richard Grigson

Cllr Kath Perry (Chairman of Staffordshire County Council)

Cllr Gareth Jones (Mayor of Stafford Borough)

Will Morris (House of Bread)

Matthew's appointment was widely welcomed, both on social media and by those he met

Matthew is set to be consecrated as bishop on 28 January. He is due to be installed at Lichfield Cathedral on 7 February followed by a welcome service in the Staffordshire episcopal area.

Interim arrangements for the role of Archdeacon of Stoke-upon-Trent will be announced shortly.

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## **Fairtrade Goods**

Although there is no Fairtrade Stall at the moment, we are continuing to order goods from Traidcraft. If you would like to order a favourite item e.g. ginger cookies or would like to look at the Autumn/Winter catalogue contact Sheila Hawley (811646) The Real Advent calendar is also available now.

The catalogue also includes Christmas goodies & cards. You can even buy face coverings. It's also an attractive magazine with lots of background info. At the back of the magazine have a look at 'Where in the World' for the countries, producers and those who benefit from the goods we buy.

Thank you for supporting Traidcraft Fairtrade goods can also be bought from a well known local food store.

*Sheila*

<b>Mission Prayer Diary</b>	
	<i>Church Mission Society</i>
1st	Pray for Ann-Marie Wilson, founder of 28 Too Many as she campaigns to end female genital mutilation. Pray for God to use Ann-Marie in new ways as she cannot travel as usual at the moment
2nd	Pray for Mark and Rosalie Balfour and others working at Street Kids Direct in Guatemala, for them to know how to support the most vulnerable people at this time
3rd	Mission partners doing prison ministry in SE Asia write that prison conditions are so bad that prisoners with chronic health conditions are being failed and even dying due to a lack of healthcare. Pray for strength and wisdom as our mission partners do what they can
4th	Helen Avadiar works in Chiang Mai, Thailand, with Kingdom Multiplication Movement. Pray that she and KMM as they counsel and share the love of Christ with survivors of human trafficking
	<i>Stephen and Tabita Bell are planting churches in Croatia</i>
5th	Pray for new pastor Teofil as he takes over running of the Dubrava church. The church building has been completed after several years work and the congregation is now paying the wages of the new pastor. These are the signs that Stephen and Tabita can move to a new work in Varaždin
6th	Stephen, Tabita and Benjamin are now at Capernwray Bible College (Lancashire). We pray that Bible College activities will be possible this year despite the pandemic. Numbers attending courses have been reduced to permit social distancing
7th	Varaždin – We are moving Sept 2021 to this town 50 miles north of Zagreb and we already have a great relationship with Pastor Jonatan (Tabita's cousin)
8th	There are 2 small churchplants in Varaždin and the aim is to open 3 other towns for the Gospel

	<i>Tearfund works with poor people across the world, combining the Gospel with practical help.</i>
9th	Yemen is suffering the world's largest humanitarian crisis. Taer Fund works through several local groups (which can't be named) to distribute food parcels and medical supplies. Pray for Yemen and especially the marginalised Muhamasheen social class who are in great need
10th	In Iraq many families have been forced out of their homes as refugees. Some have fled to Kurdistan, where Tearfund is helping to provide latrines, hygiene items and water tanks. Pray for over 4 million Iraqi refugees
11th	In Honduras, urban slums are beset with drugs, gangs and violence. Tearfund partners Church and Community Transformation are working to bring light to dark places.
12th	CTT are organising football matches to give focus to young men, to deliver food and supplies to people in hospital, setting up plastic recycling schemes and organising other positive activities
	<i>Our CMS Link Missionaries Tim and Kate Lee helped to set up JigSaw Kids Ministries in Manila (Philippines)</i>
13th	Virus cases in the Philippines have decreased somewhat recently but Manila has particular problems due to extreme poverty and lack of sanitation for the poorest people
14th	The news we have been dreading hearing has happened there are now covid19 cases in Area 4. Members in 3 families have been tested positive and they with their families and friends are now isolated from the community with the whole community in lock-down. There is panic and worry in the community

15th	We are worried too as the virus is coming closer to our homes and family, but we trust in God and keep walking in Faith. I have distributed emergency food to the families as they have no funds and no government help, I also gave milk and honey for the children, the best combination for malnutrition and sustenance
16th	Please continue to pray for all the funds required for Jigsaw's ministry. Please pray for extra funds and resources to come from the Philippines, Asia and from the UK. Funds needed for, increased emergency response, medical supplies, health care, food and wellbeing, ongoing operational costs, IT resources and educational support
	<i>Jonathan and Robinah Beesigomwe live in Gabarone, Botswana. Their organisation is "Bows and Arrows Ministry", and they work with older schoolchildren and young adults.</i>
17th	Pray that Covid will go away and for those infected and affected. And that the impact of Covid 19 will draw us and the world closer to God.
18th	Pray we catch up with the 2020 Ministry Goals even through Scripture Union. That plans for our return to Uganda will get clearer soon.
19th	Praise the Lord for the National Month of Prayer that unites churches. Pray God for economic recovery of many nations.
20th	Pray against increasing Gender Based Violence.
	<i>Mission Aviation Fellowship fly medical personnel, supplies and missionaries to far-flung, often inaccessible settlements</i>
21st	Pray for MAF partner Lesotho Flying Pastors, taking the Gospel to nomadic Basotho herders in Lesotho's remote mountain regions.

22nd	MAF was formed on VE Day and celebrated 75 years in 2020. Out of the terrible bombing missions came aircraft and pilots who wanted to fly bringing help rather than destruction, and faith instead of despair
23rd	Medical emergency flights continue and where international borders have been closed, MAF are sometimes the only way out for medical emergency cases
24th	Praise God for the work of Tutapona, an NGO working with refugees in Uganda traumatised by conflict in South Sudan. The staff, who also run counselling workshops for children help displaced people to overcome fear and grow in confidence
	<i>The Bible Society's Bible-a-month club is delivering Bible resources in England, a country of 56 million people, struggling with the effects of Coronavirus</i>
25th	In 2019 2,500 Bibles were distributed in English prisons. In 2020 many of the 80,000 prisoners were locked in cells for 23 hours a day due to Coronavirus. Pray that God's word will still reach them
26th	The Good News Bible—The Youth Edition has won awards. Pray that it will change the lives of many young people
27th	Interactive webinars will help church leaders discuss how to connect with communities during the pandemic
28th	Pray about the “Open the Book” schools ministry, that work in schools, mostly interrupted by the pandemic
	<i>In September we heard from the Leprosy Mission during a Zoom service</i>
29th	Partly funded by the Isle of Man government, the Leprosy Mission has equipped a bus with medical equipment to visit disadvantaged parts of Abuja, Nigeria. “Wheels that Heal” provides on-the-spot treatments to people who cannot afford to buy medicines. While Leprosy treatment is a particular aim, the bus is there to assist everyone
30th	Pray for Leprosy Mission's Anandaban Hospital in Nepal which treats up to 40,000 patients a year. All conditions are treated but especially the 3,200 new Leprosy cases seen in Nepal every year

## Hospital Notes 24

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Those of you who've been reading the magazine online may have noticed an absence of any **HNs** over recent months. This is because **Volunteering** at **UHNM** has been suspended (like most other things) due to you know what – **C-19**.

The last notes I wrote (HN23) were in March. However the work of the **SPaRCs team** has continued unabated with increased demand and only the employed Chaplains on site.

At last things are beginning to change even though infections are on the rise again.

During September I have attended two meetings at County Hospital to be trained in the new **PPE requirements** for visiting patients on the Wards and also completed then necessary **Risk Assessments**. By the time you are reading this it looks as though I will be allowed to resume my work at both Royal Stoke and County if I choose so to do.

Furthermore, I was very encouraged to learn that, due to increased **knowledge** about, and **treatment** of C-19 gained over recent months, hospitals are now considered to be some of the **safest spaces**.

I very much suspect that this is not most people's perception!  
*Dave Rowlands*

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### Wise words!

When he was about 80, the late Bishop George Sinker spoke to a group of clergy in the Potteries. As he was about to start his address, the large rubber band round his Bible broke and some pages fell to the floor. Having carefully replaced these, he commenced his talk. I have never forgotten his first words, which were spoken with a knowing smile.

"When your Bible is falling apart...you aren't"

Are the things that we rely upon to hold us together, like the perishable rubber band that can snap unexpectedly? Or are we held together by the eternal loving truths revealed to us in Holy Scripture?

*Roger*

## **From the Beesigomwes in Botswana**

Dear friends and partners, we greet you in the most precious Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We are praying the good Lord continues to protect you and your own. Who knew we would reach September 2020? Please share some testimonies with us. How was going through this period like? How has it prepared you for this and cousins that may follow? Like so many people around the world Psalm 91 took on a new meaning. Hence if it is the Creator of the universe who is in charge (Psalm 121) of our lives, none can override his protection over your life. We thank you and continue to appreciate your prayer and support that cause overwhelming thanks to go to God for what we are still able to do in Ministry.

### Sunday School

With the Lockdown and its limit to 50 people attending Church three times a week, it's the children Church that suffers the most. But One church committed one service to children. The kids and their masks are doing 17 Stories programme. They are meeting under a tree. Robinah is training the teachers and the number of children is increasing.

### Foundations for Farming (FFF)

Foundations for Farming known around the world but taken lightly in many places may be the missing link in making Africa the Food Basket for The World. One major promoter is Bright Hope World and OneHope based in USA and News Zealand respectively. One targets children in extracurricular programmes while the other targets the world's poor with farm lands to increase crop yields for food and money to invest. As Family Connections Bows and Arrows—FCBA and African Family Development Agency –AFDA we desire to use these programmes and to add value to what farmers produce in a number of ways.

### Scripture Union Partnership

Please pray that this will create an open door into schools. The social fabric needs an overhaul in many parts of the world but the best place to start is schools. What they learn at school forms who they will become. *(continued)*

### Covid 19 Lockdown and Ministry.

The SU partnership would be heaven sent if it can lift us from a backlog of over 41,000 of 95,000 books that needed to be given to children this year caused by Covid 19 pandemic. Its impact on the economy and social fabric will take ages to recover. Schools and churches closed and the only place left was home sweet home. And indeed for many it was but to even those who did not feel safe, home was the only choice. Elsewhere, wear masks, wash hands, sanitize, social distancing, avoid crowds of more than two people in public to save lives and family is the new normal.

We know we will never get all the information about Covid 19. In Botswana, the Lockdowns were several but the Presidential Covid 19 team must be commended for doing a wonderful job to contain the pandemic. Schools and churches opened in June and life became more bearable.

### Prayer and Praise

1. Pray that Covid will go away and for those infected and affected.
2. That plans for our return to Uganda will get clearer soon.
3. The impact of Covid 19 will draw us and the world closer to God.
4. Pray we catch up with the 2020 Ministry Goals even through Scripture Union.
5. Praise God that you and us have been supernaturally protected.
6. Pray we train more teachers online
7. Pray against increasing Gender Based Violence.
8. Pray for Pastor Michael Legodi with such a big responsibility.
9. Praise the Lord for the National Month of Prayer that unites churches.
10. Pray God for economic recovery of many nations.

**UNEMPLOYMENT**

An effort is being made with the co-operation of all the Christian bodies in the district to provide wholesome recreation and shelter for the unemployed men of the district during the day time. According to the official figures at the present moment there are over 200 men in the town entirely without work, and there is every reason to fear that this number will be nearly doubled by the end of the year. The Congregational Church are lending their Hall as a reading room up till 6 p.m. every week day, until more suitable premises can be secured. Appeal is made for papers, magazines and games which may be used by the men, and also gifts in money or in kind—and offers of service. This is a problem which the whole Christian community can, and should, unite in tackling. The Vicar is on the executive committee and will be glad to receive any gifts or offers of help

**AN INTERESTING CENTENARY**

Exactly 100 years ago this month (November 1932) the Stone Auxiliary of the Bible Society was founded at a public meeting in the town at which Lord Sandon presided. It would be singularly fitting if all who love the Bible would mark the occasion by rallying to the Jubilee meeting which will be held at the Town Hall on Wednesday, November 16th, at 7-30, when the late General Secretary of the Society, Canon Boughton, of Leicester, will be the principal speaker. The chair will be taken by Mr. Lawrence Welch, and the choirs of St. Michael's, Christ Church and the Congregational Church will jointly provide the musical programme. During the last 100 years the contributions from this district have steadily increased until two years ago they reached a figure of £75. Last year's was slightly less. It would be a splendid thing if the Auxiliary could raise a 100th Birthday Gift to the Society, to make the Jubilee year's total £100. It could be done. Come and hear about the work and take your share in it.

# 1 MAF Global Week of Prayer 1-8 November 2020

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2020 hasn't been the sort of year many of us expected. Coronavirus has caused national and global lockdown, with people throughout the world experiencing enforced isolation, economic challenge and fear of the unknown. The ongoing economic cost, the death toll, unemployment and loss of livelihood, are having a devastating effect on every nation across the world.

Despite the difficulties and restrictions imposed as a result of Covid-19, MAF continues to serve people living in remote parts of the world, flying in essential supplies and medical aid and airlifting to hospital those in need of urgent treatment.

Prayer – now more than ever – is necessary to ensure the work of MAF continues. Despite all that is going on, something of Heaven is released when we approach God's throne with thankfulness and pray for His healing, restoration, peace, provision and protection.

**A special edition**

**Prayer Diary**

is available now, on the MAF website: [https://](https://www.maf-uk.org/global-week-of-prayer-2020)

[www.maf-uk.org/global-week-of-prayer-2020](https://www.maf-uk.org/global-week-of-prayer-2020)

Please pray

with people of every nation, for the workers and work of MAF, and make 1st - 8th November a truly global week of prayer.

*'Always be joyful. Never stop praying. Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus'* (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. NLT).



## Familiar Bible names

There are forty-nine familiar (well, we hope that you know who they are) Bible characters hidden in the square below. How many can you find? Their names are at the bottom of the back page- see how many you can find before you look at the answers!



Compiled by David Johnson

## Church Website

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There is a lot on the church website! But where to find it? Here are some links. If you are reading the website version of the magazine, you can click on these links. First, the website home page!

<http://christchurchstone.org/>

Here you will find "Ebenezer" for children

<http://christchurchstone.org/ebenezer/>

Next, Latest news

<http://christchurchstone.org/latest-news/>

Video services that have been recorded

<http://christchurchstone.org/video-services/>

Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/ChristChurchStone/>

Twitter

[@CChurchStone](https://twitter.com/CChurchStone)

Where to find the magazine

<http://christchurchstone.org/magazines-2020/>

Paul's series on prayer

<http://christchurchstone.org/how-to-pray-video-series/>

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## Schools Work

As you can imagine, schools work has been difficult in recent months. However, the work is continuing now as Pursuit Club and some other activities have re-started. Sometimes groups have met outside in the playground, sometimes with "bubble" groups and not the full school.

Pray that despite many difficulties, this important work will progress.

### **Christ Church on the Internet**

Parish website	<a href="http://www.christchurchstone.org">www.christchurchstone.org</a>
Parish office email	<a href="mailto:office@christchurchstone.org">office@christchurchstone.org</a>
Magazine contributions	<a href="mailto:christchurch_mag@yahoo.co.uk">christchurch_mag@yahoo.co.uk</a>

Since this is an internet magazine, addresses and telephone numbers have been omitted

## FLOWER ROTA

1st November	Mrs D. Tunstall
8th November	Remembrance
15th November	Flower Guild
22nd November	Mrs D. Davies
29th November	Mrs M. Hillman



## ROADS FOR PRAYER

### 1st November

Mount Crescent  
Mount Road  
Mount Street  
Old Road

### 8th November

Stonefield Court  
Stonefield Square  
Victor Street  
Victoria Street

### 15th November

Whitebridge Lane  
Alma Street  
Bromfield Court  
Granville Terrace

### 22nd November

Dominic Court  
King's Avenue  
Longton Road  
Margaret Street

### 29th November

Newcastle Street  
Newcastle Road  
Northesk Street  
Radford Close



Wordsearch characters Abednego, Abel, Abraham, Adam, Ahab, Barnabas, Benjamin, Cain, Daniel, David, Elijah, Elisha, Esther, Ezekiel, Gideon, Goliath, Hezekiah, Isaiah, Jacob, James, Jeremiah, Jesse, Jesus, Job, John, Jonah, Joseph, Joshua, Judas, Martha, Mary, Matthew, Meshach, Moses, Noah, Paul, Peter, Pharaoh, Ruth, Samson, Samuel, Satan, Saul, Shadrach, Simon, Solomon, Stephen, Thomas, Timothy

### Subscriptions

If you would like this magazine delivered to you regularly, please contact:  
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