

Christ Church and People

40p



March 2022

PARISH DIRECTORY

SUNDAY SERVICES

Details of our services are given on page 4.

THE PARISH TEAM

Vicar	Paul Kingman	812669
	The Vicarage, Bromfield Court	
Children & Families Worker	Peter Cuthbert	07733 042205
	peter.j.cuthbert@btinternet.com	
Electoral Roll Officer	Parish Office	811990
Parish Office	Christ Church Centre, Christ Church Way, Stone, Staffs ST15 8ZB	
	Email office@christchurchstone.org	811990

CHRIST CHURCH CENTRE

Booking Secretary	Parish Office	811990
--------------------------	---------------	--------

CHURCH SCHOOLS

Christ Church C.E.(Controlled) First School, Northesk Street.		
Headteacher Mrs A. Graham BA(Hons) NPQH		01785 336545
Christ Church Academy, Old Road		
Principal: Mr C. Wright MAEd		01785 334900

IN THIS ISSUE

Church services in March	4
About turn!	5, 6
Drusilla Allen	6
PCC news	6
Miracle or just a coincidence!	7, 8
Flower Guild message	8
Mission prayer diary	9-12
Lent Course: The Bible– a story that makes Sense of Life	13, 14
Trains in the Garden	14
Hospital Notes 32– Connections	15
Children’s Society	16
Old photos	17, 18
Perseverance	19
Rotas, Roads for prayer	20

Christ Church



and People

Please send your articles for the April magazine to us by 15th March

Cover Picture
King’s Avenue

Magazine 40p each month or £4 each year. Money may be given to your magazine deliverer or handed in to the Church office

Christ Church on the Internet

Parish website

www.christchurchstone.org

Parish office email

office@christchurchstone.org

Magazine contributions

christchurch_mag@yahoo.co.uk

Date	Time	Church services– Check with office for updates
1st	10:30 am	Communion, Christ Church John 3:16-21 “No entry except through Jesus!”
2nd	10:30 am	Communion, St John’s Oulton (Ash Wednesday)
5th		Prayer meeting
6th	9:15 am	Communion, Christ Church Genesis 2 “Origins and meaning”
	11:00 am	Communion, St John’s, Oulton
8th	10:30 am	Communion, Christ Church John 3:22-36 “Bride and Bridegroom”
13th	9:15 am	Morning Prayer, Christ Church Exodus 15:1-21 “Exodus and freedom”
	11:00 am	Morning Prayer, St John’s Oulton
	11:00 am	Communion, All Saints, Moddershall
15th	10:30 am	Communion, Christ Church John 4:1-18 “An amazing offer”
20th	9:15am	Communion Christ Church Isaiah 43 “Exile and peace”
	11:00 am	Communion, St John’s, Oulton
22nd	10:30 am	Communion, Christ Church John 4:19-26 “Worship revolution”
27th	9:15 am	Morning Prayer, Christ Church (Mothering Sunday) Matthew 4:12-17 “Messiah and love”
	11:00 am	Morning Prayer, St John’s, Oulton
	11:00 am	Morning Prayer, All Saints, Moddershall
29th	10:30 am	Communion, Christ Church John 4:27-42 “Responding to Jesus”

About turn!

Across the church's year there are various liturgical seasons. At the start of March is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. This solemn period of 40 days (6 weeks other than Sundays) leading up to Easter recalls the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness. During this time Satan came to test him severely with the temptation to doubt his unique identity and status as the Son of God, but also to misuses his power for his own advantage. Jesus did not succumb to the temptations; he proved his sinlessness by these tests which was essential in his obedience to the Father's perfect will.

By contrast, Jesus' followers fall to the temptation to sin but from which we are to repent. To repent is to be sorry for what we've done wrong and be committed to doing what is right. This involves a change of mind.

Let me illustrate. If you go to the beach and enjoy laying in the sun, then someone urges you to join them in the sea. After walking across the sand, you arrive at the water's edge and dip a toe in the water. The icy cold water makes you retract your foot swiftly as you say, "Oh, no I really don't want to go in!" Others may at first encourage you and then tease you for not entering the water. If you turn around and walk back up the beach, retreating to your towel, then you have repented of your decision to go for a swim. You've been thinking one way, but now you think the opposite way. That's repentance — the changing of the mind.

To help us in this we are given both searching truths and wonderful promises:

"If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us. My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world" [1 John 1v8-2v2].

(continued)



About turn! *(cont)*

Those who have come to know Jesus as Lord and Saviour are to embark on a lifelong pattern of turning away from our sins and turning to follow him.

May we know his grace as we do this in our daily walk with Jesus.

Paul Kingman

Drusilla Allen

We have recently received a WhatsApp message from Ralph and Dagmar, informing us of the passing of Dagmar's mother on 8th February 2022.

Dagmar's parents, Drusilla and John, were part of our Stone church family in Rev. John Williams' day. Drusilla had dementia and had been living in a nursing home for several years.

PCC News

The P.C.C. held a meeting on 19th January 2022. During the meetings the following matters were discussed:

- We are looking into holding a James Cary (writer of A Monk's Tale and The Turbulent Priest) event sometime this year.
- It was agreed that a small group would be set up to come up with ideas for celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The ideas will be discussed at the next meeting.
- Along with other local churches we are investigating the possibility of setting up a Street Pastor Scheme in Stone.
- It has been agreed to look into replacing the old projector in the centre with a screen which can link wirelessly to devices providing a better streaming system in the centre for events.
- Thanks was expressed to Helen Bowes for another successful Advent Windows event.

The next PCC meeting will be held on Monday 21st March at 7.30pm

Miracle or just a Coincidence!

In 1990, I ruptured a disc in my back lifting a heavy object. The back pain I suffered at the time was intense, so much so that after GP referrals, I sought private help. The recommendation was a spinal operation the chances of success being only 50/50. I did not go ahead but instead resorted to painkillers taken very early morning so that I could drive the 27 miles to work.

I could still cycle but getting on and off the bike was a struggle, so in 1992 Sandra, Rachel (our daughter) and I decided to risk a holiday in the south of France, meeting some friends at a caravan park in the Dordogne. Our friends were big cyclists too so all was set for a good time, although the back was still a problem for me.

In the second week of our holiday, we visited Pau & Lourdes in the Pyrenees, the visit to Lourdes was not for health reasons but as we were in the area, we thought why not!

The Sanctuary of Lourdes was such an amazing place and after some consideration I decided to take the waters (so to speak) – this involved entering a male only bathing area where I had to strip completely and wear only a loincloth, I was then taken to a rectangular stone bath (the sides of which were waist high). I climbed into the bath of very cold spring water and read a short prayer from a stone tablet before two monks, one on each side of the bath, proceeded to immerse me backwards in the freezing water.

I was then allowed to dry off and get dressed, meeting Sandra & Rachel outside I remember saying to them – ‘It’s not instant then, I can’t even bend to put my shoes on’.

Three days after my immersion in the waters at Lourdes I went cycling by myself, it was a very hot day. When I returned I was in so much pain I decided to lie face down in the shade behind the caravan.

(continued)

I woke to find the sun had gone down and even the slightest movement caused unbearable pain. I called for help and eventually my friend together with two Dutch girls, who had seen the commotion, dragged me into the caravan still face down. There I stayed on the floor of the caravan until morning. I woke early the next day and tried to move. I found that I could stand without any pain and remember then walking all round the campsite just enjoying the experience.

That was 1992 and I have not taken any form of painkiller since and have not suffered from back pain, even though X-rays still show a damaged disc in the lower back.

Now was this a Miracle or Just a Coincidence? - That 3 days after visiting Lourdes, I was cured!

Chris Morray

Message from the Flower Guild

The flower beds on each side of the path which leads to the main church entrance are being rejuvenated.

We are aware that the Peace roses in the beds were planted after the Second World War, but they now need replacing. We will be purchasing the new rose bush produced by Harkness Roses to commemorate the Queen's platinum jubilee.

Some shrubs will also be planted in the beds, which we hope will improve the approach along the pathway to the main church entrance.

Thank you to Dylis and her brother Dennis who did most of the hard ground work.

Marylyn Hillman

Mission Prayer Diary	
	<i>Scripture Union</i>
1st	Pray for leaders of SU Easter holidays, the first “normal” SU holidays for two years
2nd	Pray for everyone running Guardians of Ancora clubs and for Faith Guides using the Faith Hub resources
3rd	SU Russia praises God for the Teens’ camp they ran last summer, kayaking, cooking on open fires and learning to cope with difficulties together. Pray about plans for this summer
4th	Pray for Faith Guides using the “£Be more Micah” resources for 14 to 18 years olds.
	<i>Stephen and Tabita Bell are planting churches in Croatia</i>
5th	Varaždin – Our new church location. Pray that we will find our roles in this small church and help to bring in new church members
6th	Croatia has been suffering from very high levels of Covid infections and illness during January. Pray that infections will decrease and church work will progress
7th	Varazdin church has just bought a building and is trying to acquire some adjacent waste ground to use as a car park. Pray that this will work out and make it easier for people to attend meetings
8th	Stephen and Tabita have rented a small house in Varaždin now and are becoming more involved in local church
	<i>TearFund works with many poor communities across the world. They especially work through local churches and agencies</i>
9th	In the Indian village of Balwa the bridge was washed away in floods last year. With Tearfund support, the local church has rebuilt the bridge
10th	Villagers in Ivory Coast have been helped by Tearfund to start their own small businesses; Emilie sells spices and Frederic grows cocoa

11th	Tearfund partners have been building toilets in DRC, Zambia, Malawi and several other countries. These improve sanitation and also improve safety for women who now don't need to go outside the village in the dark
12th	Pray for Tearfund's partner "Renew Our World Brazil", a coalition of over 30 Christian environmental groups campaigning on climate change and calling for protection for indigenous peoples of Brazil
	<i>Our CMS Link Missionaries Tim and Kate Lee helped to set up JigSaw Kids Ministries in Manila (Philippines)</i>
13th	Jigsaw's work is dependent upon transport. Their van is very old and beyond repair, An appeal for £14,000 to buy a new one has so far raised £8,750
14th	Pray for God's protection for everyone involved in Jigsaw Ministries. May God miraculously open more doors for them in the future
15th	Please pray for Jigsaw's new trauma care ministry: Following Jigsaw's trauma care training Jigsaw is planning to develop its care ministry for children experiencing trauma in each area in the new year. Please pray for Jigsaw's Community Ministry Leaders for guidance and wisdom as they seek to grow and develop new ministries in their areas.
16th	Give thanks that £5,200 was raised to pay for Christmas parties for children and individual gifts for more than 2,500 children. Weekly food parcels have been given to 700+ needy families and 2,500 "Jigsaw at home" packs have been distributed

	<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	The work of Jonathan and Robinah was recently recognised by Botswana’s Vice-President Mr Slumber Tsogwane, who said that an estimated 800,000 people have been reached through their health and social interventions during the last 25 years. Botswana Christian AIDS Intervention Programme (BOCAIP) continues to offer free health advice services
18th	Pray for Rev Dr Edward Turitwenka, who hopes to continue the work started by the Beesigomwes.
19th	Pray for a newer car for Ministry. The trail of smoke is scary and mechanics not excited to repair it. We give thanks for seed money that has put Faith car back on the road for a while longer
20th	J&R hope to retire in July 2023 but this depends on their house being ready. At the moment it is only a building plot, building work has not begun
	<i>Mission Aviation Fellowship fly medical personnel, supplies and missionaries to far-flung, often inaccessible settlements.</i>
21st	MAF partner Fanavotana, which means ‘redemption’ in Malagasy, visits Madagascar’s prisons, preaching the Gospel and providing food, Bibles, medicine and clothing. Thanks to MAF, Pastor Solofo and his team can now visit prisoners in isolated areas that they were originally unable to reach.
22nd	Twenty-two years ago, Yalum Airstrip in northern Papua New Guinea’s Enga Province was closed when a group of men stormed an aircraft in a bid to attack a passenger they believed to be their enemy. In January, MAF conducted its first operational flight from Mount Hagen to Yalum Village in Nete Lyaim - home to around 17,000 people - delivering much needed school resources to children. The local primary school (200 pupils) and secondary school (150 pupils) will directly benefit from cargos on board MAF flights. Pray that flights will continue in peace

23rd	In Foya, Liberia, the Effort Baptist Church (from USA) undertakes annual week-long medical and evangelistic missions. Previously it required a 20-hour drive from Monrovia but now MAF flies the team in and out.
24th	In Marsabit County, Kenya, a new eye clinic has been started by MAF pilot Ryan Cuthel, previously a Flying Doctor in Australia. 80% of blindness is preventable– pray that Ryan’s initiative will help many
	<i>The Bible Society’s Bible-a-month club is delivering Bible resources in Egypt where the church began in AD42</i>
25th	Egyptian Christians have experienced persecution and church growth. There are about 10 million Christians in Egypt
26th	It’s easy to talk about religion in Egypt but difficult to give anybody a New Testament. Pray that Christians will be able to talk to neighbours
27th	300 Sunday school teachers and 600 Bible study group leaders have been provided with resources in 2022 through Bible-a-month
28th	Pray for the 17 Bible bookshops in Egypt run by Bible Society
	<i>Church Mission Society supports mission workers across the world, including our link missionaries Tim and Kate Lee</i>
29th	Pray for Habeeb Kamal as he travels to different villages in Egypt to preach the Gospel
30th	Rachel Cama and husband Alex run a community house in Shrewsbury for prison leavers, partnering with charity Yellow Ribbon
31st	In Southeast Asia, A and L are working in addiction recovery and special educational needs respectively. As church and Celebrate Recovery groups resume meeting, pray for people’s hearts to be ready and open to what God wants to do

Lent Course: The Bible –

-A Story that makes Sense of Life

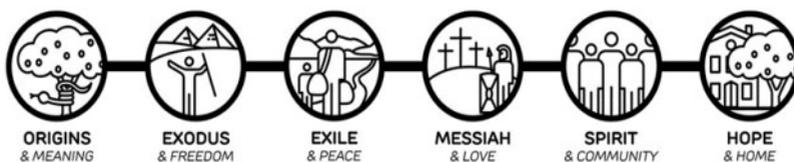
The political, social and cultural upheaval of our times can leave us feeling bewildered and wondering where to turn for trustworthy guidance. As unlikely as it may seem, could the Bible provide ancient wisdom that helps us flourish today?

Join us on a fascinating series with Andrew Ollerton as he explores the storyline of Scripture, connecting six major biblical events with six definitive human needs: for meaning, freedom, peace, community, love and for an ultimate home. In these sessions we see how the Bible story makes sense of our human story.

Discover for yourself a limitless source of guidance and hope in the face of so much uncertainty.

Underpinned by a depth of scholarship, but non-technical in style, it makes it accessible for the widest possible readership - including Christians and seekers interested in the Bible and to identify the relevance of the Bible in our cultural moment.

When we make sense of the Bible, the Bible makes sense of us.



The United Benefice course runs on Sundays at 5pm (from 27th Feb) and each session is repeated on Wednesdays at 7.30 p.m. (from 2nd March) in Christ Church Centre, Stone.

What reviewers of the book behind the course have said:

'For the believer, sceptic or just-plain-confused, this is an essential guide to how the Bible speaks to modern life' [*Justin Brierley, author of Unbelievable?*]

Lent Course

What reviewers of the book behind the course have said:

'Honest, revealing insight into the bestselling book of all time.' [*Bear Grylls, Chief Scout*]

'A stimulating and accessible survey of history's most influential book.' [*Tom Holland, historian and author of Dominion*]

'Personal and profound; informative and practical. If you want to experience the Bible as a rich source of guidance and hope, this book is for you.' [*Simon Thomas, former Sky Sports and Blue Peter presenter*]

The Bible Series course has seven sessions:
Sun 5pm by Zoom / Weds 7.30 pm live at Christ Church Centre

Sunday 27th Feb / Wednesday 2nd Mar #1
"Introducing the Bible"

Sunday 6th Mar / Wednesday 9th Mar #2
"Origins and meaning"

Sunday 13th Mar / Wednesday 16th Mar #3
"Exodus and freedom"

Sunday 20th Mar / Wednesday 23rd Mar #4
"Exile and peace"

Sunday 27th Mar / Wednesday 30th Mar #5
"Messiah and love"

Sunday 3rd April / Wednesday 6th Apr #6
"Spirit and community"

Sunday 10th April / Wednesday 13th Apr #7
"Hope and home"

The flyers in church will give you an opportunity to tell Paul which session you will go to, or you can email him.

Trains in the Garden

By popular demand, Pete and Liz will be running the trains again this year. Easter Saturday April 16th is the planned date, please make a note! Proceeds to Jigsaw Kids.

Hospital Notes 32—Connections

Unless a patient has a lot that they want to talk about, which is not normally the case, visits are mostly only perhaps 15 minutes or so in length – not very long to get to know something about a person. But in that short time it is important to connect with each other if our conversation is to be anything more than a surface or inconsequential chat; although of course there is nothing wrong with that in itself!

However my aim is always to try to do more than that – to enable each and every patient I see to be able to share the issues that are of real concern in their circumstances which, frequently, they have never experienced before and therefore, can be quite daunting. I want to bring them hope for the day and for the future; whether that might be returning home and picking up life as before or facing a completely different life, for example, being less able than before or moving to residential care.

Very often it is possible quickly to find some mutual connection that sparks conversation and perhaps that isn't surprising when we remember that it is estimated that through 6 of our contacts each of us could find some, maybe very small, connection with everyone else on the planet! And a slight connection is all that is needed...

The connection could be anything – a place we both know or have visited at some time, an interest of some sort, work (current or past), being a fellow Christian or many other things. The secret is to try to find that connection as quickly as possible!

From time to time I am asked by someone I know to visit a friend or relative of theirs and recently this has happened more frequently. In these situations we have a ready made and immediate connection – the person we both know.

Over the last five years, while working within the SPaRC team, I have gradually worked out various 'openers' which I can use to help to draw alongside and connect with those I visit. This, I believe, assists in making the time patients and I spend together as beneficial as possible.

Dave Rowlands

Thank you for sharing the light of Christingle

Dear Mrs Morray,

Thank you so much for your Christingle celebration this year and this amazing donation of £323.00 to The Children's Society. It's thanks to the money raised in churches and congregations like Christ Church Stone that we are able to transform the hopes and happiness of thousands of children in this country who face abuse, exploitation and neglect and bring the full light of Christingle into their lives. Please extend our thanks to everyone who contributed towards this.

We know that organising a Christingle is always a challenge and this year our supporters have gone to extraordinary lengths to help us celebrate and raise money. We can't thank you enough for all the hard work you have all put in to ensure the Christingle tradition continues. It means the world to us.

The impact we can have on a young person's life is all driven by you - our volunteers, supporters and campaigners. When you attend a Christingle and support The Children's Society you are helping us to fight for the hope that is within all children.

Last year more than 6,000 celebrations raised almost £1.2 million to light up the lives of children and young people. Every penny raised at your Christingle makes a life changing difference. You can read more about the impact your support has here - childrenssociety.org.uk/impact

Thank you once again for helping to make sure that children in this country can look forward to a hope filled, brighter future.

Yours sincerely, Andrew Moran
Head of Supporter Relations

Old Photos

Church Holiday at Trewince Easter 1987. From Pete Mason



Old Photos

Cyril Venables laying foundation stone for the Church Centre.
From Shirley Hallam



Perseverance

Do you remember learning to ride a bicycle or to swim? I remember having a bicycle for one of my birthdays. I wondered if I would ever be able to learn as I tried to ride across the grass at home. I found it really difficult but I knew it was important to learn, after being given such a big present. I just had to keep on trying until I got the hang of how to keep going without falling off and when I finally managed it the feeling was wonderful.

One of my sisters was really keen on horses (she still is) but horse-riding lessons were out of the question for our family, however so determined was she that every Saturday she went to the local stables to muck out for free and to lead the horses to and from the field just for the chance that maybe she could have a ride.

Last summer I watched my six-year-old granddaughter attempt the monkey bars at Westbridge Park. Her older brother could do them so she thought she could too. I watched as she tried and tried again 1 bar, 2 bars, 3 bars until at last she managed them all. What a delight to see her face when she completed them.

We can learn so much about perseverance from children and the Bible has a lot to say on the subject. Here are just of a few of the verses I have found and I hope they encourage you when times are tough or you feel down.

Let your eyes look straight ahead. Fix your gaze directly before you. Give careful thought to the paths for your feet and be steadfast in all your ways. Proverbs 4:25-26

Even to your old age and grey hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you. Isaiah 46:4

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. James 1:2-4

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Hebrews 12:1-2

Deanery Synod Reps	Helen Bowes, Dave Rowlands
P.C.C. Members	Pete Kelly, Estella Woodhead, Anne Smith, Marylyn Hillman, Diane Aspey, Liz Mason Phil Tunstall, Andy Stone, Shelagh Sanders
Secretary	Shelagh Sanders
Treasurer	Pete Kelly
Envelopes, Gift Aid	Richard Latos

FLOWER ROTA

6th March	Lent
13th March	Lent
20th March	Lent
27th March	Lent



ROADS FOR PRAYER

6th March	13th March
Harding Grove	Sawyer Way
Oulton Grove	Goodall Close
Elmhurst Way	Candler Drive
Darwin Close	Chandler's Way

20th March	27th March
Albert Street	Chestnut Grove
Arthur Street	Edward Street
Alexandra Street	Field Terrace
Berkeley Street	Field House Court

