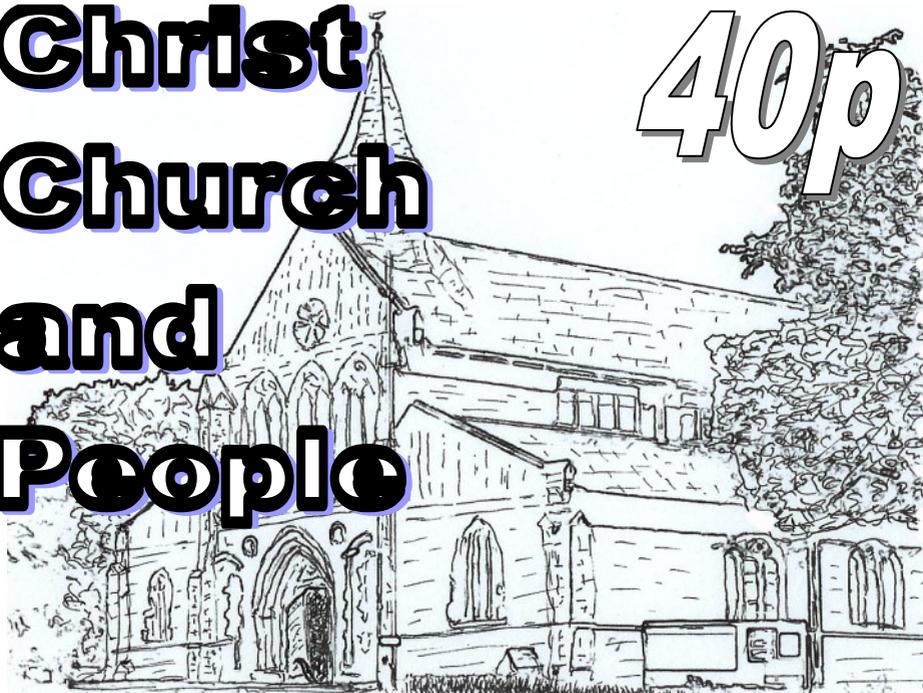


Christ Church and People

40p



August 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
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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

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Christ Church



and People

Please send your articles for the September magazine to us by 15th August

Cover Picture
Granville Terrace

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

August 2022

	Date	Time	Events (Zoom codes in weekly email)
Mon	1st		
Tue	2nd	10:30 am 2:00 pm	Communion; Acts 8:26-40 "The suffering servant" Service at Autumn House
Wed	3rd		
Thu	4th	11:00 am	Service at St Mary's Home
Fri	5th		
Sat	6th		
Sun	7th	9:15 am	Communion; Psalm 131 "Humility"
Mon	8th		
Tue	9th	10:30 am	Communion; Acts 9:10-22 "The Son of God"
Wed	10th		
Thu	11th		
Fri	12th		
Sat	13th		
Sun	14th	9:15 am	Morning Prayer; Psalm 132 "Obedience"
Mon	15th		

Time for God?

Do you find it hard to carve out time to read the Bible and pray? Thought so - I think every Christian struggles with this. Some days are harder than others. Encouragement comes from a spiritual great of the past called Robert Murray McCheyne (1813-1843). As part of a document he wrote called "Reformations" he said: "If I have slept too long, or am going on an early journey, or my time is in any way shortened, it is best to dress hurriedly, and have a few minutes alone with God, than to give it up for lost."

August 2022

	Date	Time	Events
Tue	16th	10:30 am	Communion; Acts 13:26-41 "The Son of God"
Wed	17th		
Thu	18th		
Fri	19th		
Sat	20th		
Sun	21st	9:15 am	Communion; Psalm 133 "Community"
Mon	22nd		
Tue	23rd	10:30 am	Communion; Acts 22:1-21 "The righteous one"
Wed	24th		
Thu	25th		
Fri	26th		
Sat	27th		
Sun	28th	9:15 am	Morning Prayer; Psalm 134 "Blessing" Matthew Leung UCCF) visiting
Mon	29th		Holiday Club (setting up)
Tue	30th	10:30 am	Communion; Acts 28:17-31 "The Lord Jesus Christ"
Wed	31st	1:30 pm	Holiday Club

Notes

St John's Oulton Sunday services

11:00 am each Sunday

All Saints Moddershall Sunday services

11:00 am Second and Fourth Sundays in month

If you would like to receive the weekly email with Zoom codes and other notices, please contact the church office

Jesus transfigured!

Jesus had a close group of followers, and three disciples were his inner circle: Peter, James, and John. After having spoken about his death soon to come Jesus took these three up a mountain: *'There Jesus was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light'* (Matthew 17v2). Jesus' physical transformation helps the disciples look back: this visible change was a reminder of the glory he had before becoming a man. As the second person of the Trinity, he is fully God and fully man. Yet it also points forwards to his future exaltation. Following his death and resurrection Jesus would ascend to his home in heaven. The heavenly Jesus would continue his work on earth, providing forgiveness of sins through his perfect sacrifice and there he intercedes for us.

The sight was amazing, but there was more to come: *'Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus'* (v4). These Old Testament characters represented the Law and the Prophets which both bore witness to the future Messiah who would fulfil the Old Testament. An Elijah type figure would prepare the way for the arrival of the Messiah (Jesus explained it was John the Baptist v10-13). The disciples were stunned. Peter suggested they could build shelters – a sort of memorial for each one of them: *'While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"'* (v5). The voice of God endorses Jesus his Son, superior to Moses and Elijah. His disciples must take great care to understand and respond to him as the Messiah.



Jesus revealed his divine glory in his transfiguration. Those who behold his glory will be transformed by it. In other words, once we've glimpsed the greatness of the Lord Jesus, then our lives can never be the same again.

(continued)

Jesus transfigured!

The marking of this event (6th August) celebrates the revelation of the eternal glory of the Second Person of the Trinity, which was normally veiled during Christ's life on earth. Symbolically, August 6 works well as it precedes the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross on 14th September by 40 days. As a result, it connects the transfiguration to the cross of Jesus Christ and helps us to see the glory in both.

During the summer there are often fewer of the usual scheduled activities. This could be your opportunity to read one of the Gospels to see either for the first time, or to see afresh, the glory of Jesus. But then if you do that you may well find that life changes for good.

Paul Kingman

Children and Families Update – Trekkers!

We have launched a new club called Trekkers for first school age children – and it has been going well! We have met Wednesday afternoons with some children from Christ Church First School. They enjoy a drink and a biscuit, run around playing a couple of games, then listen and discuss some Bible teaching, and then finish with a craft. We even got out the paints last time! So far, we have covered a few of Jesus' parables, including the Good Samaritan and the Prodigal Son. We will be on a brief summer hiatus, but then we'll be back in full force in September.

As ever the club needs helpers to run! Do get in touch if you are free on a Wednesday afternoon between 3.30 and 4.20. Things seem to be looking up after the pandemic, with opportunities arising and doors opening. Do pray that we will continue to follow God's wisdom and share his love with all the children that come to us.

Peter

8 **What is Razzamatazz Robots Holiday Club?**

Razzamatazz Robots Holiday Club is a 4-day fun event for children aged 5 – 11 years (school years just finished: Reception to Year 6) run by volunteers from Christ Church, Stone and Oulton Church. We aim to teach the children some basic Christian values whilst having a great time together. To get the most out of it, the children are encouraged to come on all four afternoons, as the event follows a programme of Bible teaching and drama that follows through as the Club progresses, but children can also join in for shorter periods if they can't come every day.

The children can be safely left in our care; all volunteers have DBS certificates and parents are not required to stay. Each child will be placed into a small group, based on age, with dedicated leaders who will be responsible for him or her throughout the afternoon. However, not all of the time is spent in this small group, as there are some activities that all the children participate in together. During a typical afternoon we will have times of singing action songs, doing quizzes, learning together from drama, puppets and activity sheets, making things, playing games, and having refreshments. There is no time to be bored!

The Club culminates in a special Holiday Club service at Christ Church on the Sunday morning, preceded by a breakfast to which all family members are invited. During this service we will review what the children have learnt and get a flavour of the fun they have been having during the week. We do hope that your children would like to be part of this adventure!

If you have any questions, please ring the Church Office on 01785 811990 or Sue Kingman on 01785 812669 who will be happy to answer them.

Mission Prayer Diary	
	<i>Scripture Union—pray for Summer camps</i>
1st	Pray for 8+ holidays Lager 1 (Gloucestershire) and Longbarn 2 (Kent), both starting today
2nd	Pray for 11+ holidays Curtains Up (Berkshire) and SLAM LlanM (S Wales), that started on 31st July and 1st August respectively
3rd	Pray for Harriers (Norfolk) that started on July 30th and Make The Difference (Derbyshire) that started on July 31st; these are both camps for 15 years and older
4th	Pray for Beach Missions in Nefyn (starts August 6th) and Criccieth (starts August 7th). Both camps have connections with Christ Church Stone
	<i>Stephen and Tabita Bell are planting churches in Croatia</i>
5th	Varaždin – Church members are looking after some Ukrainian refugees, two are staying with a church member and other church members are helping with meals etc for refugees
6th	Zagreb is hot in August, temperatures typically in the high 30's Celsius every day in August. Record summer temperature was 42.8 C in August 1981. Many Croatians leave the city in August to stay in holiday homes or shacks in the hills. Pray that church work will continue despite the exodus
7th	Pray for churches in poorer regions of Pristina and Albania, in particular for pastors Berti Dosti and Gani Smolica and their small churches (Berti and Gani have both visited Christ Church)
8th	Many Ukrainian Christians are now refugees in countries of Eastern Europe. Stephen is hoping to be able to support some to work in churches in Croatia
	<i>TearFund works with many poor communities across the world. They especially work through local churches and agencies</i>

9th	In Nepal, TearFund has been delivering oxygen to Covid sufferers, helping a church to run a school for children whose parents are too poor to pay for normal schools, helping small-holders to grow and sell their crops, and providing sewing machines
10th	In Sri Lanka TearFund is working among farmers struggling against crop failures, working to end child marriages (often occurring due to lack of food to feed children) and working with organisations contending with climate change
11th	In Liberia, TearFund is supporting the disabled, victims of sexual abuse and vulnerable children
12th	This week, TearFund asks us all to do what we can to persuade governments to take seriously the problems of climate change
	<i>Our CMS Link Missionaries Tim and Kate Lee helped to set up JigSaw Kids Ministries in Manila (Philippines). Please pray-</i>
13th	that the Lee family will settle quickly into their new home and that it will be a good base for Tim's CMS work
14th	a new co-worker for Tim to manage Jigsaw UK so that Tim can focus on Jigsaw work in The Philippines and his CMS Asia work
15th	Success in exams for Grace, Rebekah and James, and for Kate as she starts a new teaching job
16th	Guidance for Jeanette Sotto and everyone involved in Jigsaw's vital work in Manila, reaching out to children and families living in slum areas and on the streets

	<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.</i>
17th	54,000 scripture booklets and Christian books have just arrived; pray that these can be distributed in schools and other places where they will be welcomed and read
18th	Pray that the partnership with Scripture Union will help J&R as they visit schools
19th	The Scripture Union local director borrowed Jonathan’s car and unfortunately collided with a cow. He had minor injuries but the cow was killed and Jonathan’s car was badly damaged. Please pray.
20th	Farming education work continues with a focus on growing potatoes for food, as well as Safflower for commercial purposes
	<i>Mission Aviation Fellowship fly medical personnel, supplies and missionaries to far-flung, often inaccessible settlements.</i>
21st	MAF aircraft regularly fly staff from various NGOs to Uganda’s vast refugee camps. In a land still beset by swarms of locusts, MAF flights take food supplies where most needed
22nd	MAF planes in Uganda fly Christian organisations such as Far Reaching Ministries, Hope and Grace International, Lutheran World Federation and Jesus Film Ministries to help spread the Gospel. May God bless the work of their hands
23rd	MAF distributes gift boxes of Bibles and soap to hospitals, schools, orphanages and prisons across Papua New Guinea (PNG). Pray that the recipients will come to know how much God loves them

24th	When Madagascar suffered its worst drought in decades MAF enabled a local Baptist church to distribute food to 2,500 people. Pray for MAF as it preaches in Word and Deed
	<i>The Bible Society's Bible-a-month club is delivering Bible resources in Israel</i>
25th	Tensions between Israel and Palestine continue with struggles over ownership of land; pray for peace and justice
26th	Pray that younger generations in Bible lands will discover the love of Jesus through the Bible
27th	Pray that God will lead the Bible Society into more schools in the region
28th	Separately, we celebrate the launch of the first Bible in the Achi of Cubulco language in Guatemala.
	<i>UCCF works in colleges and universities throughout Britain. Our local UCCF worker Matthew Leung asks for prayer for-</i>
29th	Wisdom and a real passion for evangelism, for the newly appointed CU leaders as they finalise and implement their plans for outreach events and meetings, for the next academic year
30th	Many more students to come to know Jesus through the evangelistic events planned for Freshers' week and throughout the year, especially at Harper Adams college
31st	Time to rest for Matthew, as well as good use of his free time to prepare Bible studies, seminars for Forum and other events for next term

Looking for a fun club to join?

Come to our brand new club:

TREKKERS!

Wednesdays 3:30-4:20pm

For children in Years 1 - 4

Come and join us at the
Christ Church Stone
Centre for:

A drink & a snack!

Tons of fun games!

Interactive Bible stories!

Craft activities!

What are you worth?

Hospital Notes 36

As a Volunteer at UHNM I receive a parking permit for the staff car parks at both Royal Stoke and County Hospitals and last month I had to go into the 'Volunteer Coordinators Office' to collect my new pass.

While there I was struck by a poster on the wall which read..

**"Volunteers are not paid –
Not because they are worthless,
But because they are priceless"**

Over recent weeks I have sat with many patients who were experiencing various levels of distress and confusion, held their hands and prayed with them. This is a close and intimate connection and makes me very aware how precious each person is.

Years ago, when rewriting the values for Shallowford House, 'The Diocesan Retreat and Conference Centre', where I was Warden for 15 years, one was...

"to recognise the uniqueness, dignity and worth of each individual"

I believe that this is still one of its objectives today and I have a copy of it on my notice board to this day!

"Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. Indeed, the very hairs on your head are all numbered; you are worth more than many sparrows.

Luke 12: 6&7

Dave Rowlands

Neither sowing nor reaping

Look at the birds, they neither sow nor reap, they have no storeroom or barns, yet God feeds them, Luke 12 v 24.

I often look at the birds coming to the bird feeder in our garden, they take it for granted that there will be food for them; and that is when I think of the above verse from Luke's gospel.

How often do we worry about our circumstances instead of trusting our heavenly father to supply all our needs. We need to become more like the birds and completely trust our heavenly father who loves us so much.

When Michael was in hospital and I was so fearful, God provided for all my needs through so many of you; by your prayers, giving me lifts to the hospital. By my family coming and helping me through every kinds of need and difficulty. By my neighbours who were on hand when things went wrong in the house, like when the electrics failed!!!

Oh me of little faith; yet God was there all the time, encouraging me through his word. Though my flesh and my heart fail God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

Kath Thompson

UCCF Update and Prayer Requests

In his latest newsletter, Matthew (UCCF Staff Worker for Keele, Staffordshire and Harper Adams CUs) writes: 'All of a sudden we've come to the end of the academic year, while the past term was quieter than before Easter, there's been a lots happening and lots to be excited about for the next year!'

Reflecting on his first two years as a Staff Worker, he continues: 'It's hard not to think back to the journey so far. My first year was so hard and I often felt the work I did was insignificant, or in vain. However this year, I've been able to see my lovely students face to face and see them grow in their confidence of the gospel and their ability to share it!

(continued)

It's seeing growth in [the faith of students] that reminds me that our work for the Lord is not in vain. Though we don't always understand how God is working, it is all working towards one goal. And what is this goal? As Paul puts it, it's that day when Jesus returns and death will be no more. And so in light of that ultimate truth: *"... my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain."* 1 Corinthians 15:58. `

Please give thanks to God for:

- Students who have grown a genuine passion for Christ in response to the work done by Matthew and other CU members
- Relay Worker, Kayley, for her excellent support for Matthew and the rest of Team Midlands.
- The appointment of a new Relay Worker, Sam, for next year

Please pray for:

- Wisdom and a real passion for evangelism, for the newly appointed CU leaders as they finalise and implement their plans for outreach events and meetings, for the next academic year.
- Many more students to come to know Jesus through the evangelistic events planned for Freshers' week and throughout the year, especially at Harper Adams college.
- Time to rest for Matthew, as well as good use of his free time to prepare Bible studies, seminars for Forum and other events for next term.

To read Matthew's full report, please look in the folder under the Mission Matters noticeboard in the church centre.

Elizabeth

At the start of Jonathan's missionary work in Botswana, in August 1993, God revealed to him the impact HIV would have on people living in Botswana. Based on warnings found in the Bible (Joel 2:2-18), in 1996, the Church and Government nominated September as an annual National Month of Prayer and Christian Mobilization against HIV and AIDS and other social ills. BOCAIP (Botswana Christian AIDS Intervention Programme) is mandated to coordinate this each year. During September 2022, a team from Uganda will be helping with training sessions and outreach, using available programme materials from Scripture Union (SU), Campus Crusade for Christ, Christ Crusaders International Fellowship, and Family Connections Bows and Arrows, as well as distributing SU evangelistic books on the subject of 'Hope'.

Another initiative that is close to Jonathan's heart is an Economic Empowerment Programme—the Joseph Operation, that encourages the production of Safflower seed for oil-based health products. Recently Jonathan has connected with other Investors who train local people in the production of potatoes. From a small number of tubers (seed potatoes), 20–30 Kg of potatoes can be harvested. Imagine how many impoverished families this could help. Jonathan invites each one of us to invest in these projects, both financially and through prayer.

For further information, see the Mission Matters noticeboard in the church centre. *Elizabeth*

Taking the Long View

Looking back can trap us in nostalgia. Lionel Bart's, musical comedy "Fing's ain't what they used to be" humorously summed up the attitude in the nineteen sixties. In stark contrast we share in the sadness of the exiled writer of Psalm 137 "*By the rivers of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion*". Tragically this will resonate for all too many people today. *(continued)*

Taking the Long View

We are all getting older! The ageing process can induce a depressed way of thinking about life, wishing we were young again but knowing that can never be.

However for those of us who have come to know Christ and tried to live a Christian life, taking a long view can bring profound thanksgiving and wonder.

We remember people who influenced us and even corrected us in the early stages of our journey. Or moments when we, in our turn, were able to help others and thereby witness to the faith that drives us.

Then there are those amazing "chance" happenings which at the time we thought we just co-incidences, but in the long run turned out to be life changing. Looking back and taking the "long view" of these, together with so many other events, should make us profoundly thankful that our unique story is so precious and faith building... *"My times are in your hands"* Psalm 31:15a

Actually the nostalgia for the past in Psalm 137 is quite an exception. There are many Psalms which recall the wonderful things God has done for his people. The refrain in Psalm 136 perhaps sums up how we feel when we take the long view of what God has done in our lives "For his mercy endures for ever"
Roger

PCC News

The P.C.C. held a meeting on 6th July 2022. During the meeting the following matters were discussed:

- The cushions for the side pews should be fitted within the next few weeks
- On Wednesday afternoons a new club has started during term time at the Centre. The Trekkers Club is for First School children.
- A letter was received from a student who has been awarded this year's bursary from a fund set up with the All Nations College using some money from Cecilia Wilding's legacy: this will be included in the September magazine.

Groups and Rotas

Deanery Synod Reps	Helen Bowes, Dave Rowlands
P.C.C. Members	Pete Kelly, Estella Woodhead, Jacqueline Abrahams, Shirley Hallam, Gary Williams Marylyn Hillman, Diane Aspey, Liz Mason Phil Tunstall, Andy Stone, Shelagh Sanders Lynne Bakker-Collier
Secretary	Shelagh Sanders
Treasurer	Pete Kelly
Envelopes, Gift Aid	Steve Taylor

FUNERAL

28th June Herbert (Bert) Smith Age 84 years

FLOWER ROTA

7th August
14th August Mrs B. Boote
21st August
28th August

SIDESPERSIONS

Jacqueline Abrahams
Judith Kelt
Pete Kelly
Pam Roberts

ROADS FOR PRAYER

7th August
Barnton Edge
Anderton Way/View
Bentley Close
Rendel Grove

21st August
Cauldon Way
Harecastle Bank
Saltersford Rise
Rolt Close

14th August
Brindley Close
Rudyard Close
Cressy Close
Joules Drive

28th August
Millenium Way
Cameron Wharf
The Crescent
End Granville Terrace



Razzamatazz Robots



A Holiday Club for children in
Reception - Year 6

Christ Church Centre, Stone
30th Aug – 2nd Sep 2022
1.30 - 4.00 pm

Holiday Club Service: Sunday 4th September
with breakfast at 9.15am



A 4-day fun adventure with games,
songs, crafts, puppets and drama
based on the Story of Creation

To book, go to:

<http://christchurchstone.org/?p=7319>