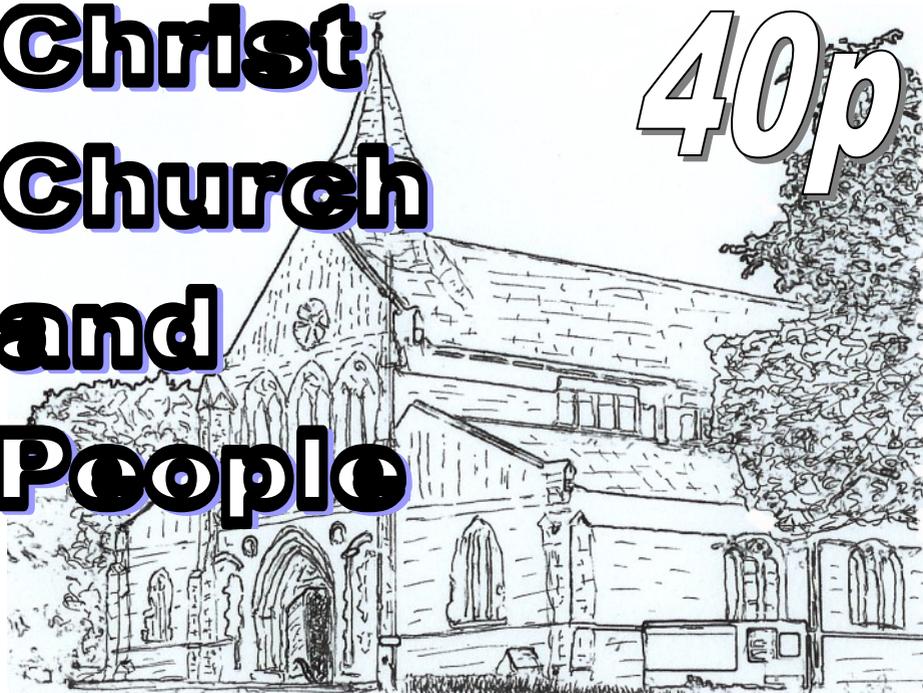


# Christ Church and People

40p



# January 2023

# PARISH DIRECTORY

## SUNDAY SERVICES

Details of our services are given on page 4.

## THE PARISH TEAM

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

## CHRIST CHURCH CENTRE

<b>Booking Secretary</b>	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 February magazine to us by 15th January

Cover Picture  
High Street

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	<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>

# January 2023

	Date	Time	Events (Zoom codes in weekly email)
Sun	1st	11:00 am	Joint Benefice Morning Prayer at St John's Oulton John 1:19-28 "John is not the Christ"
Mon	2nd		
Tue	3rd		
Wed	4th		
Thu	5th	1:10 pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	6th		
Sat	7th	8:30 am	Prayer meeting followed by breakfast
Sun	8th	11:00 am	Joint Benefice Communion John 1:29-42 "The Lamb of God". Shared meal afterwards
Mon	9th	9:30 am	Toddler group
Tue	10th	10:30 am 12:30 pm 2:00 pm	Communion, Isaiah 42:1-9 Pursuit Club, Christ Church Academy Autumn House service
Wed	11th	9:00 am 3:30 pm	Christ Church First School assembly Trekks
Thu	12th	11:00 am 1:10 pm	St Mary's Home service Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	13th		
Sat	14th		
Sun	15th	9:15 am 5:00 pm	Morning Prayer John 1:43-51 "Jesus calls Philip and Nathanael" Hope Explored
Mon	16th	9:30 am	Toddler group
Tue	17th	10:30 am 12:30 pm	Communion Isaiah 49:1-7 Pursuit Club, Christ Church Academy
Wed	18th	9:00 am 3:30 pm 7:30 pm	Christ Church First School assembly Trekks PCC meeting

# January 2023

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Events</b>
Thu	19th	1:10 pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	20th		
Sat	21st		
Sun	22nd	9:15 am 5:00 pm	Communion John 2:1-11 "Jesus changes water into wine" Hope Explored
Mon	23rd	9:30 am	Toddler group
Tue	24th	10:30 am 12:30 pm	Communion Psalm 27 Pursuit Club, Christ Church Academy
Wed	25th	9:00 am 3:30 pm	Christ Church First School assembly Trekks
Thu	26th	1:10 pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	27th		
Sat	28th		
Sun	29th	9:15 am 5:00 pm	All age service John 2:12-25 "Jesus clears the Temple" Hope Explored
Mon	30th	9:30 am	Toddler group
Tue	31st	10:30 am 12:30 pm	Communion 1 Cor 1:18-31 "True wisdom" Pursuit Club, Christ Church Academy

## 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

## What to learn from the census

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What were you doing on 21st March 2021? It's hard to think back unless you keep a diary. We'd just reached the first anniversary of the first Covid lockdown. There were many restrictions including the rule of six or two households meeting outdoors. Churches still could not meet 'in person' and so we were using Zoom for a live service and provided a shorter YouTube recording for people to view. All very well if you had the technology to join this way. Yet it was this day that data for the 2021 Census was gathered!

It wasn't until December 2022 that the Census results were published. For many it provided ammunition to say down with religion! A decline was seen in the number identifying with being Christian and an increase in those who specified their religion as 'none.'

What do we make of this? For those who had only ever made a nodding agreement with the church I guess the lines have been drawn more clearly. But if we think about those who are trying to follow Jesus daily by a life of trust and obedience then it is an encouragement as they are still with us!

The large number is likely due to our Western values being rooted in Christian faith. This is the topic of an impressive book by the author Tom Holland called 'Dominion – The Making Of The Western Mind' (2019, Little, Brown). He shows how Christian values have touched so many things from our laws to our literature. It provides an answer to questions like why do we care for the vulnerable? Why do we protect children? Why object to corruption? Why believe in human rights? There is a link between a loss of Christian faith and increasing fragility of our society, an increasingly consumerist mindset, the rise of individualism, and ruthless competition being the norm.



*(continued)*

What can possibly change the downwards trend of society? Jesus said: *"Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."* (Mark 8v34-38).

If you would like to think about this further, then do join 'Hope Explored' – just three sessions to look at how following Jesus changes everything.

*Paul Kingman*

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## **Sunday 8th January**

Andy Cranston will be speaking at the morning service on 8th January, which will be at

**11:00 am**

and will be followed by a

**Bring and Share meal**

(2 things to remember!)

Andy was Curate at Christ Church 2011 to 2014 (seems a long time ago, but that was the period when he wrote articles for this magazine). The service will be at Christ Church.

'Joy to the World' kicked off the 2022 'Advent Window Trail'. A large crowd gathered outside *The Coop Funeral Service* joined by Miss Witney and her group of pupils from St Michael's First School. Miss Witney read the bible passage before the children led the singing. Their scene cleverly depicted the whole world in mosaic form.

It was a damp but calm Monday, 5th December as we gathered at *Dunoon* to open and see their splendid window. As someone commented 'it's wonderful what you can do with mugs'. A lively rendition of 'On Christmas Night' accompanied the reading and prayer. Mince pies and stollen were very much enjoyed!

*Suitcase Dry Cleaners* was on Friday the 9th. Oulton First School had produced a fantastic scene of the angel's second visit. The children sang 'Good Christian Men Rejoice' beautifully by heart. Fantastic.

Saturday 10th December was a cold bright frosty morning outside *AED* where the Mayor and his wife joined us for the opening of Christ Church Toddlers window. Sandra delivered the reading, Paul the prayer and 'Infant Holy' was the chosen carol.

12th December was at *Shear Genius* – today was the turn of Christ Church Academy which produced a wonderful Advent window – a huge star with Mary on her journey. After the reading and prayer the pupils led the singing of 'Little Donkey' followed by 'We Wish you a Merry Christmas'. Mulled wine and mince pies were then on offer!

*Jeanette Rowlands*

## **"You have my word"**

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When we sign a cheque or a legal document we say we are "putting our name" to it. This means that we understand what we are doing and will honour any promises made.

It used to be common for people to say "you have my word" after they had made a commitment to do something for a friend. Today less specific phrases like "No problem" are used.

It's Wednesday afternoon and the phone rings. An aero modeling friend of mine is on the line. The conversation is brief. "Are you going tonight, Roger?" (He is referring to an indoor model flying club to which we both belong). I tell him that I am, and he replies "OK I'll pick you up". Its brief and to the point.

Because of our friendship I can trust his word. I immediately assemble all the models and gear that I will need for the evening. My friend's word has galvanized me into action. Then, sure enough at 6.30 his car arrives to pick me up.

Scripture tells us that we have God's Word. I can trust whatever our Lord Jesus has said, and can rest assured that the promises that he has given us will be met.

I am also personally aware of the times that He has "picked me up", not to take me somewhere, but simply to put me right!

Our time together with Jesus often has to start at that point.

*Roger Vaughan*

## Food. gives - The 1st year

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*Food.gives* was set up by Barnabas Fund in September 2021. Donors in the UK collect specific dried food items which are sent to Christians in need worldwide. Christ Church & St John's donated to the project during the Harvest period in 2021 & 2022.

During the 1st year:

- 4,000 10kg boxes were sent out from the warehouse in Swindon. (We sent 8 boxes in October.)
- Over 100 volunteers have helped, either in the warehouse or out on the road.
- A special appeal was launched for Ukraine at the beginning of the war. Since then 18 40ft lorries have been sent directly to those who need it most.
- In the summer the focus was on Namibia where the northern part of the country is suffering from extreme drought. *Food.gives* sent a container in July. When it reached Namibia, 4x4 vehicles took over, driving over rocky & mountainous land to reach isolated Christian tribes in the NW.
- At the moment, food boxes are being collected to send a container to Pakistan, so badly affected by monsoon floods this year.

Barnabas Aid asks donors to pray for

- Our Christian brothers & sisters around the world suffering poverty & hunger. May the Lord provide for them physically, emotionally & spiritually & pray their faith will not waiver.
- The distribution of food organised by *Food.gives* in the receiving countries. Please ask for God's wisdom & strength for all involved in the distribution of the emergency food aid items.

*Sheila*

<b>Mission Prayer Diary</b>	
	<i>Scripture Union—pray for work among young people</i>
1st	Scripture Union has just celebrated it's 50th anniversary. Give thanks for the work and pray that God will continue to encourage and provide
2nd	Pray for the Mission Events team as they get ready for the Holiday and Mission leaders conference next week
3rd	Pray for thousands of children who will play "Guardians of Ancora" today
4th	SU holiday brochures will be sent out this month. Pray that families who receive them will be ready to go on a SU holiday
	<i>Stephen and Tabita Bell are planting churches in Croatia</i>
5th	Pray that the ambition of a new churchplant in Novi Marof will work out. Pray for blessing, openness, good contacts and funds for room rental
6th	Varaždin - Buying land and expanding the building. Pray that God would enable this sizeable project. A team of maybe 10 Belgians are offering to stay up to 7 years to help with building work and a church has offered some of the funds. Please pray that God brings all things together. He is our "Jehovah Jireh".
7th	Visiting Berti (Albania) and Gani (Kosova). Whilst visiting Albania, we felt God asking us to encourage these pastors, former colleagues and friends of ours. We plan to visit them periodically. Pray for this.
8th	Give thanks for Adriatik and Bledi who joined the reborn Albanian church in the 1990's after the fall of communism, and are now church leaders in Vienna and Patos
	<i>TearFund works with many poor communities across the world. They especially work through local churches and agencies</i>

9th	In Yemen, there have been fears that an ageing oil tanker moored off the coast could cause an environmental disaster. The tanker has been neglected since the start of the conflict there in 2015. However, praise God, funds have now been raised by the international community to begin a salvage operation. Thank God for this breakthrough, and pray that the ship can be salvaged safely.
10th	Pray for an end to the ongoing violence in Nigeria.
11th	Tearfund assembled the Fair Circularity Initiative, which helps ensure the human rights of waste pickers globally. Praise God: Coca Cola, Nestlé, Pepsi and Unilever have agreed to adopt the Fair Circularity principles. This was something many of you prayed and helped Tearfund campaign for as part of Tearfund's Rubbish Campaign. Thank God for this success.
12th	Thousands of people have now been forced from their homes by gang violence in Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince, and 50 per cent of the population are now going hungry. Pray for national leaders to make decisions that will lead to peace and provision. Pray for Tearfund's staff and local partners as they balance responding to the situation with caring for their own families in this difficult season.
	<i>Our CMS Link Missionaries Tim and Kate Lee helped to set up JigSaw Kids Ministries in Manila (Philippines). Please pray-</i>
13th	The new van is in action! Pray about all the collections of food, deliveries of weekly bags to street families, and all the other activities that are van-dependent
14th	Pray for the literacy programme and the sewing groups
15th	For the last two plus years Jigsaw has not used any buildings for their ministry except Jigsaw's central office. Now there is a big challenge to re-find spaces and buildings to use. In some places where Jigsaw worked the buildings we used or rented no longer exist. Prayers please.
16th	Pray for the work with handicapped and disabled children. Funds have been received from a NGO to assist with some of this work

	<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	J&R are looking for other mission workers to continue the work that they are doing in schools and colleges.. Pray that this will be picked up by colleagues
18th	J&R hope to be able to retire in 2023 but this is now looking difficult due to lack of funds to pay for somewhere to live. Pray that a house can be built cheaply and quickly on the plot of land they have bought in Uganda
19th	Pray that J&R will find another car to use, after their car was wrecked in a collision with a cow while being driven by someone from a different mission organisation
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	In Timor-Leste MAF recently was called in to transfer a boy dangerously ill with Dengue fever to the distant main hospital. The boy’s family had no money so MAF provided clothes, credit vouchers, drinking water and sanitary materials. Pray that this work can continue
22nd	MAF helps “We See Hope” in Africa, an organisation addressing emergency needs of orphaned and vulnerable children. WSH operates in 13 African countries running after-school projects, providing equipment and helping poor families earn money
23rd	MAF Kenya is delighted that, for the first time in 12 years, they have been able to resume regular evangelistic eye treatment safaris. Pray that Jesus will use these safaris to restore sight to the blind

24th	Give thanks for re-opening of some old airstrips in Chad, and pray for plans to open new airstrips in remote areas of Timor-Leste and Angola
	<i>The Bible Society is working in many countries</i>
25th	In 2019, the Manchester Alliance Church had 200 Chinese Christians but now there are over 1,200. Why? Hong Kong Chinese Christians have been moving to Manchester. Bible Society has been providing Chinese Bibles
26th	The first ever Jola language Bible was launched in The Gambia in 2022– pray for all who will read it
27th	Russian and Ukrainian Bibles have been given to refugees arriving in the UK due to the war
28th	Pray for migrant workers who were in Qatar to build stadia for the World Cup. Many received Bibles from the Bible Society and other organisations. May they take them home to their families
	<i>Mission workers</i>
29th	Pray for Pastor Mircea Pestean working with gypsy and other poor communities in Romania. Due to charity laws in the UK, Christ Church can no longer send money– but individuals can
30th	Pray for Ralph and Dagmar Baron, working at Hebron School in India. Ralph has suffered from health problems and they have a high workload as they teach several subjects to A level standard
31st	Mission partners E and R work in a Muslim country and cannot tell us about their work. But let's not forget about them. Let's pray for them and their work

*(came after the December magazine had been printed)*

Merry Christmas, dear partners at Christ Church!

Greetings and best wishes for the Special Christmas Season 2022. May Christ find us ready?

Words cannot tell what you have done through this ministry over the many years you have supported the work of Campus Crusade for Christ and Family Connections Bows and Arrows in Botswana and indeed over the greater part of Southern and Eastern Africa through Beesigomwes.

Under Family Connections, reaching out into schools and communities with character based Christian materials by training teachers and youth leaders to mentor children and youth in the OneHope programme "God's Word. Every Child" with over sixty thousand books every year. Touching one family at a time and sometimes in groups with parenting skills, marriage fitness skills and more recently economic empowerment skills. The list goes on and on. This was because you accepted the call to reach out to Africa with your missionary support. We can never figure out how to thank you enough. But our God will continue to bless you knowing your labour in the Lord is never in vain. Well done Christ Church.

#### The way forward in our partnership

As communicated before, this coming year is hopefully a year of transition. Moving our base from Botswana to Uganda is the goal. God willing this will be on 31 July 2023, when the Uganda Botswana Mission Partnership turns thirty years. Two months ago, we hosted a team of six Ugandan short term missionaries for the National Month of Prayer God used us to start in 1996. It was such a blessing and test of home. Our desire was heightened. With your experience with missionaries, you probably know we still need you over this process. Our partnership was not mainly financial support. Many times the Christmas Cards with those signatures and prayers spoke more to us than words can tell.

*(continued)*

However, this notwithstanding, there is also the transition from the traditional missionary approach to ministry. New approaches will help to continue to implement programmes planned to bring Africa closer to God.

This will continue to run under Family Connections Bows and Arrows new leadership that may hopefully be in place before we leave, and through African Entrepreneurial Development Agency AEDA (PTY) LTD. We invite friends and partners from the UK who want to invest in Africa to partner with us starting with Agribusiness. This may be the future of the Church, Missions and Business to further our partnership through AEDA.

### More about AEDA

In partnership with Farmers groups, the project will train thousands of entrepreneurs in different countries to grow and process cash crops including Potatoes, safflower, sunflower, moringa, cocoa, coffee etc. The capital generated will help to eradicate hunger and poverty and give surplus funds. The zero strings attached funds will be invested to stimulate African's real economic potential through projects identified for SDGs and AEDA 2030. Farmers will undergo training and form mentorship clusters of four to ten families. The training based on AEDA five pillars, will help them start growing more food crops and at least one key cash crop using Foundations for Farming technology that increases yield and heals the land.

If Jesus tarries, using the pool and cluster model to empower clusters to invest together the AEDA way is a very practical way for churches and missionaries to change the destiny of nations.

The door is open for Christians to lead the investment campaign around the globe. Come join!

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year 2023. Faithfully Yours

*Jonathan and Robinah Beesigomwe*

We wish you a very joyful Christmas, from a rainy and cold Varaždin, Croatia! It has been a whirlwind time these last few months.

### Looking back!

we were privileged to participate in the 30-year anniversaries of two of the Albanian churches we planted back in 1992 - we visited Fier in September and Patos in November. It is so great to see the fruit these two churches and their members have produced. Notably we were impressed with the number of 40+-year old Albanian leaders! Of course, it is all God, but you know what we mean.

### Albania – Fier and Patos

The Gospel Message rings out faithfully! It was thrilling to visit our old towns, now incredibly modified. It was inspiring to see mature Albanians taking leading roles in church ministry and meeting up with Adriatik after all these years... He started preaching as a 16 year old, helping lead the new Patos church. So many memories and joint experiences. Now he is helping lead a church in Vienna. Then it was great to see Bledi, who started as a 9 year old in Sunday School 1994, but is now leading the church. We encouraged the two churches and Stephen showed the churches' early histories using slides.

Presently, it is great to work in the Varaždin church, involved in leadership, preaching, mentoring as well as Sunday School, worship group and evangelistic programmes.

### Baptisms- Great trophies of God's grace

It was a great joy to see Petra and Noa baptised in September. Petra became a Christian this Spring. Her husband Ivan had become a Christian in prison, being released 3 years ago and had witnessed to her. Now they are a bright and joyful couple with their two young children.

*(continued)*

### Baptisms- Great trophies of God's grace

Noa, pastor Jonatan's son, had been drifting away from the Lord, having made a few wrong life choices. The fear of the Lord caught him and he accepted God's grace and really committed his life to the Lord. We were all so overjoyed as a whole church, as we have prayed much for him and suffered with him! His girlfriend Mia became a Christian in Spring and is growing fast in God. Thus, we are all overjoyed and the reality that we either choose God or chaos is clear to the whole church.

### Evangelism amongst children: Samaritan Purse

We are sure you have filled shoe boxes with good presents for children. Well, here we are on the receiving end. Already 80 children will come to events Christmas in Varaždin, Ivanec and Novi Marof, which our church is organising. Tabita is training our church children so they can perform the Gospel presentation. Each of the invited children receive a shoebox and booklet, "The Gift".

THEN, LOOKING TO THE FUTURE Novi Marof attempt at churchplant: We are planning on starting a church "pre-Easter 2023" in this town. Please pray for blessing, openness and good contacts, as well as funds for the room rental. Varaždin - Buying land and expanding the building. Pray that God would enable this sizeable project. A team of maybe 10 Belgians are offering to stay up to 7 years to help with building work and a church has offered some of the funds. Please pray that God brings all things together. He is our "Jehovah Jireh".

Visiting Berti (Albania) and Gani (Kosova). Whilst visiting Albania, we felt God asking us to encourage these pastors, former colleagues and friends of ours. We plan to visit them periodically. Pray for this.

*Much love, Stephen and Tabita Bell*

## Covid- 19

I have not been visiting the hospitals since early October due to my first experience of the virus. I tested positive on October 12th and remained so until the 22nd when I was pleased to get a negative result. My symptoms weren't at all bad, but as I recovered I was left feeling very low with a recurrence of the symptoms of my previous periods of severe depression.

I was terrified that life was going to be another long haul (my last time lasting 2 years less 1 week). However it turned out to be the aftermath of covid (I understand low mood can be one of the side effects) and 4 weeks after my negative result I started to improve quite quickly.

Praise the LORD that I am now fully recovered and back to *'normal'*!

I will be returning to work at both Royal Stoke and County hospitals in the New Year and look forward to being able to share with you more of my thoughts and feelings associated with it next year.

I cannot finish without expressing my deepest appreciation to the many of you who prayed for me during what was a very difficult few weeks for Jeanette and me – I can only describe it as a living death and I'm sure it wasn't much better for my long suffering wife!

THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH

*Dave Rowlands*

## 20 **Carol Singing at Royal Stoke University Hospital**

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On Monday 12th December at 6pm just nine of us arrived at Royal Stoke for the carol singing. As some Covid restrictions are still in force we could not go onto the Wards to sing. However a brilliant alternative had been arranged, singing high in the atrium of the Main Building. We sang our own selection of carols for just under an hour following singing by the 'Fijian Choir'.

The sound was sensational with fantastic acoustics and although not as many people heard, as in other years, those that did had requests, clapped and waved to us from below.



Chris, The Lead Chaplain, told us afterwards that the singing had certainly lifted people's spirits and led her to some very meaningful conversations.

Overall, very different from other years, but time spent in a most worthwhile way. We found that while blessing others we ourselves were also blessed.

*Jeanette Rowlands*

On arriving at the Market Square to see window 13 I was surprised by the size of the crowd. What a special day! Pirehill First School had not only made a magnificent window display at John Burton solicitors but had sent their choir as well.

The window display was "No Room At The Inn"- I particularly liked the cow and the ingenious use of a pink washing-up glove to make the udder.

After the window- revealing we were treated to two carols by the excellent choir and some very tasty mince pies from John Burton.

It was lovely to see so many children and a good number of parents enlivening our town square on a cold and frosty morning. Well done to everyone who has attended the windows this year, often in sub- zero temperatures.

*Enid*

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## **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

"The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is traditionally observed from the 18th to the 25th January – the octave of St. Peter and St. Paul"

Details of activities for 2023 are not yet available, but maybe there will be a joint service during the week. Please check the church notice sheets in January to find out what is happening.

For this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity we will be guided by the churches of Minneapolis as we seek to explore how the work of Christian unity can contribute to the promotion of racial justice across all levels of society.

As we join with other Christians around the world for the Week of Prayer we pray that our hearts will be open to see and hear the many ways in which racism continues to destroy lives, and to discern the steps we can take as individuals and communities to heal the hurts and build a better future for everyone.

One morning in December I awoke very early (at 04:15 to be precise) and the words of a song were going round and round in my head. I could not settle again until I had written the following after which I went straight back to sleep!

*"From the rising of the sun to the going down of the same,  
The LORD'S name is to be praised"*

Then suddenly some parallel words came – another description which, as a scientist, spoke loudly to me about our awesome creator God.

*"From the incomprehensible vastness of the cosmos, to the  
infinitesimal sub-microscopic constituents of the atom,  
The LORD'S name is to be praised"*

Immediately thereafter, an uncanny experience I had when undertaking my 'Counselling Training' in 1990 came to mind. We had been instructed to draw, with eyes closed and minds open, allowing the wax crayons to flow freely over the page and then to view our own creation. I was blown away by what I saw... a turbulent jumble of squiggles gradually transforming into a beautiful fountain as my eyes moved up the large sheet of paper. And as I looked at this totally unexpected picture the description of it that jumped into my mind was

*"Out of chaos, comes order and perfection"*

These words have remained with me vividly ever since and I see them as a very inadequate vision of God working at the beginning of time! Please read Genesis 1: 1-26 and be stunned as I am!

*Dave Rowlands*

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## Christ Church 134 years ago

*"As thy days, so shall thy strength be."—Deut. xxxiii. 25.*

Our motto for 1889 is the divine assurance, given of old to the tribe of Asshur, and still the heritage of God's people.

The Christmas Decorations, both at Christ Church and Meaford have been deservedly admired, and the thanks of all are due to those ladies who worked so hard and successfully to represent the thoughts and joys of Christmas.

The Watch Night Service was very well attended. After shortened Evening Prayer, the litany, " Father from Thy throne on high," was sung kneeling, and the Vicar then sought to guide the thoughts of those present on the subject of God's mercies, and their relations to Him in the past, and to humble resolves of renewed devotion in the New Year. At 12 o'clock, the Te Deum and " O God our help in ages past" were sung, and the interesting and solemn Service closed with the Benediction.

On New Year's Day, by the kind help of many friends, the Mothers' Meeting had their annual tea in the large School-room ; it was a pleasing sight to see how the members had increased during the past year ; about 110 were present. Useful and helpful addresses were given by Dr. Fernie and Mr. Bishop. The mothers warmly applauded the vote of thanks, proposed by the Vicar, to the subscribers and helpers.

On January 2nd, the Parochial Tea was held in the Schools, and though we did not number so many as on former occasions, the evening's enjoyment was in no way inferior. After a short address on matters relating to the Church, a varied musical programme afforded delight to all present. The state-ment is given below.

On January 4th, the Stonefield Children's Mission had their annual Tea, followed by a Magic Lantern Entertainment, exhibited by Mr. Frank Fernie, and it is needless to add, the boisterous youngsters appreciated the good things provided. Again we are indebted to the generosity of friends, and the kindness of the ladies who collected.

Yet another Tea on January 10th, when the Young Women's Bible Class, at their own charges, met for their annual social evening. After tea, they spent a very enjoyable evening in the usual merry games, interspersed with music and recitations, and brought to a close by a few words of counsel from the Vicar, with singing and prayer.

Our monthly Meeting of the Parochial Branch of the Church of England Temperance Society held on Monday, January 7th, passed off well. We were ably helped by many kind friends, who gave their services in a programme consisting of readings and music. The branch is making steady progress, and is in a healthy state. The next meeting is fixed for Monday, January 28th 1889

# Groups and Rotas

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<b>Deanery Synod Reps</b>	Helen Bowes, Dave Rowlands
<b>P.C.C. Members</b>	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
<b>Secretary</b>	Shelagh Sanders
<b>Treasurer</b>	Pete Kelly
<b>Envelopes, Gift Aid</b>	Steve Taylor

## FUNERAL

2nd December                      Audrey Littlewood                      Age 86

## FLOWER ROTA

1st Jan  
 8th Jan    Flower Guild  
 15th Jan  
 22nd Jan   Mrs W. Carroll  
 29th Jan

## SIDESPERSIONS

Jacqueline Abrahams  
 Marilyn Overall  
 Pete Kelly  
 Pam Roberts

## ROADS FOR PRAYER

**1st January**  
 Radford Street  
 Station Road  
 The Avenue  
 Trent Road

**8th January**  
 Tunley Street  
 Trinity Drive  
 Airdale Grove  
 Airdale Road

**15th January**  
 Airdale Spinney  
 Cross Street  
 Nicholls Lane  
 Old Road

**22nd January**  
 Old Road Close  
 Oulton Cross  
 Oulton Road  
 Oulton Mews

**29th January**  
 Prince's Street  
 Queen's Square  
 York Street  
 Navigation Loop

