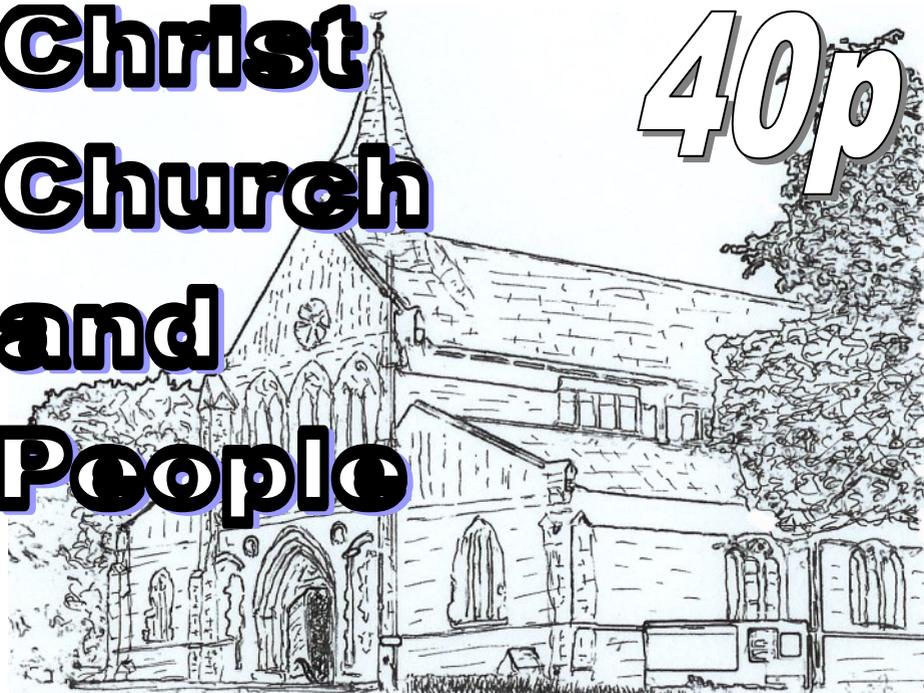


# Christ Church and People

40p



# February 2023

# PARISH DIRECTORY

## SUNDAY SERVICES

Details of our services are given on page 4.

## THE PARISH TEAM

<b>Vicar</b>	Paul Kingman	812669
	The Vicarage, Bromfield Court	
<b>Children &amp; Families Worker</b>	Peter Cuthbert	07733 042205
	peter.j.cuthbert@btinternet.com	
<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

**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

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## Christ Church



## and People

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

Cover Picture  
Berkeley 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:magazine@christchurchstone.org">magazine@christchurchstone.org</a>

# February 2023

	Date	Time	Events (Zoom codes in weekly email)
Wed	1st	9:00 am 3:30 pm	Christ Church First School assembly Trekks
Thu	2nd	1:10 pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	3rd		
Sat	4th	8:30 am	Prayer meeting followed by breakfast
Sun	5th	9:15 am	Communion: Psalm 22 "The innocent one"
Mon	6th	9:30 am	Toddler Group
Tue	7th	10:30 am 12:30 pm	Communion: Isaiah 58:1-9 "True fasting" Pursuit Club
Wed	8th	9:00 am 3:30 pm	Christ Church First School assembly Trekks
Thu	9th	1:10 pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	10th		
Sat	11th		
Sun	12th	9:15 am	Morning Prayer: Psalm 40 "The patient one"
Mon	13th	9:30 am	Toddler Group
Tue	14th	10:30 am 12:30 pm 2:00 pm	Communion: Micah 6:1-8 "Justice" Pursuit Club Autumn House service
Wed	15th	9:00 am 3:30 pm	Christ Church First School assembly Trekks
Thu	16th	11:00 am 1:10 pm	St Mary's Home service Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	17th		
Sat	18th		

# February 2023

	Date	Time	Events
Sun	19th	9:15 am	Communion: Psalm 69 "The zealous one"
Mon	20th		Half-term
Tue	21st	10:30 am	Communion: Psalm 119:33-40 "Truth"
Wed	22nd	10:30 am	Ash Wednesday service, St. John's Oulton Communion: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 "Pretence"
Thu	23rd		
Fri	24th		
Sat	25th		
Sun	26th	9:15 am 3:00 pm 5:00 pm	All age service: John 18:1-11 "Jesus arrested" RAF memorial service for Flt Lt Stubbs Lent course
Mon	27th	9:30 am	Toddler Group
Tue	28th	10:30 am 12:30 pm 7:30 pm	Communion: Isaiah 53:1-3, Luke 4:1-13 "Submission" Pursuit Club Lent course

## 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

## Magazine email

The new address for the magazine is  
[magazine@christchurchstone.org](mailto:magazine@christchurchstone.org)

The old Yahoo address will no longer be used

## The road to reconciliation

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On the Stafford to Eccleshall road there is an unfinished side road about 100 meters long. The project was started, but it did not get very far. Is this a picture of good intentions incomplete to connect with someone we have fallen out with?

The pain of relationships having gone sour is all too common. What does it take to be reconciled? Many are quick to protest their innocence, but slow to "fess up" their part.

Jesus said: *"If your brother or sister sins against you, rebuke them; and if they repent, forgive them. Even if they sin against you seven times in a day and seven times come back to you saying 'I repent,' you must forgive them."* The apostles said to the Lord, *"Increase our faith!"* He replied, *"If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you"* (Luke 17v3-6). Forgiveness requires faith in God i.e., to trust in the perfect Judge who alone can put all wrongs right.

Jesus teaches us to pray about forgiving others: 'Forgive us our debts, as we have also forgiven our debtors' (Matthew 6v12). God's forgiveness is to be reproduced in our own lives. If we recognise the enormity of our debt to God that He willingly forgives, then we will have the humility to forgive others. If we hold onto the hurt, we will find that our hearts harden. We are not to nurse the hurt but give it to God. This is not easy to do, as faith is not a soft option, but is essential to forgiving.



The New Testament teaches about reconciliation: *"Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you"* (Colossians 3v13).

(continued)

God demonstrated the extent of His love for us by personally paying the *price so that we may be forgiven*. When Christ died, He was "*making peace through his blood, shed on the cross*" (Colossians 1v20). It was only through Jesus' death for us, that we can enter the joy of being reconciled to God. Knowing God's forgiveness changes our hearts.

Are you making progress with your road building towards others? This Lent let's refocus on Jesus Christ through whom we have reconciliation with God.

*Paul Kingman*

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### **News from our new Mission Partners in Kenya**

Paul and Elizabeth Makau, in their monthly update, sent New Year greetings to everyone at Christ Church Stone. They also wrote: 'The year 2023 began well here in Nairobi. Daniel and Grace went back to school [*Rift Valley Academy*] on 2nd January and are progressing well with their studies. Elizabeth and I have continued with our missional work alongside studies (Liz has started her MA-Christian Leadership and Mission dissertation and I have submitted some work to Vrije University (VU) in Amsterdam towards my PhD programme). Please pray with us, I am waiting for feedback from VU research committee by February.

We are also reviewing a Diploma in Missions course that will be delivered at AIU (Africa International University). This course will be for pastors who engage with different missional communities especially Muslims and other unreached people groups. We have also started engaging with a group of Pastors from Africa Inland Church (AIC) with an aim of training them on Missions, mobilising them to reach out to their communities and moving over to unreached people groups in Kenya. AIC was started by African Inland Mission (AIM) and the church works closely with AIM. This group of Pastors are excited about the programme and we trust God that it will be successful-please pray with us regarding this. Many Pastors in Africa generally do not have formal theological training.

Thank you so much and God bless you all.'

Dear our faithful partners and friends, brothers and sisters  
Warm missions greetings from Nairobi-the city under the sun, now full of rain (an answer to one of the prayer requests in the September 2022 Newsletter-Amen and Amen, keep on praying because our God hears). I John 5:14-15 NKJV assures us this: "Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him". Please keep praying.

The months of October and November have been the busiest so far. We attended a three-week Africa Based Orientation (ABO) with various other AIM missionaries and families who started AIM assignments in August. Our Group included Medical staff, Pilots, Theological educators, community development experts, etc all going to serve among various unreached people groups in different parts of Africa. ABO is an essential part of all AIM missionaries induction, and we were trained and practically engaged on several topics including Islam (We visited two Islamic centres in Nairobi and engaged with the members on Gospel matters).

We also visited a local market (Ongata Rongai for those who might be familiar with Nairobi Map) and engaged with local traders. We attended church meetings in various AIC churches as well. As part of our orientation, two families-our family and that of Dan and Barbara were sent to AIC Kabiria in Kawangware slum in Nairobi.

We were humbled to witness the great work of the church leadership and members in taking the gospel of hope to a people who live in a challenging environment. Please pray for the pastors, church ministers and leaders serving God in these places

*(continued)*

Appreciation

We appreciate your continued prayers and financial support according to Ephesians 6:18; That the Lord will grant us boldness; use us as His hands, His feet and His Mouth for the Glory of His name. Every time we think of you as our partners, we thank God for all of you with joy Philippians 1:3-11. May God's Grace abound to you- Amen.

Prayer requests

1. Thank God for the rains. People have now planted crops and are trusting God for a huge harvest.
2. Please pray for more souls to turn to the Lord and for missionaries serving out here. Pray for the missionaries and their families working among the unreached people groups. AIM and other missionary agencies have missions going on in Northern Kenya, Southern Sudan, Uganda, DR Congo. Tanzania and so on. There are large villages that have never had a church ever since and some of the local people in these areas are welcoming even if they are not believers. Their hospitality and welcome are a great starting point for nurturing relationships that can lead to sharing the gospel to these unreached people.
3. Please pray for more supporters and that those who have signed up will honour their pledges.
4. We are trusting God to buy a car that we can use when we move to rural areas where we will be engaging with local pastors, leaders and church members. Pray that we will get a genuine vehicle.
5. Please pray for journey mercies as we travel to some of the mission posts. We hope to travel to Korr-Marsabit in Northern Kenya early next year with Craig to a community he has been working with. Craig teaches at AIU. There is a training programme for pastors in this area. Thank you so much for all your prayers and generous financial support. Every blessing in Christ Jesus.

*Paul and Elizabeth Makau*

## **The significance of a signature**

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Thank you to everyone who signed the sheet that accompanied our Christmas greetings card, sent by email, to our Mission Partners. This is what it meant to some of them when they received your signatures and Christmas card greetings this year:

### **Jonathan and Robinah Beesigomwe:**

“Many times the Christmas Cards with those signatures and prayers spoke more to us than words can tell. ”

### **Tim & Kate Lee:**

“Thank you so much for your wonderful Christmas cards and Christmas messages ... To see all of the signatures and names brings great love to us and empowers us so much... ”

### **Paul and Elizabeth Makau:**

“Thank you so much for ... the nice Christmas card with all your signatures and messages. We are really excited, grateful and it will go a long way in helping us and you fulfil the great commission as in Matthew 28:18-20.”

### **E & R in South Asia:**

“Thank you so much for the newsletter and Christmas greetings.

[We] loved all the signatures!...

A copy of each Mission Partner’s full Christmas message is available, along with their latest newsletter, in the folder under the *Mission Matters* noticeboard, opposite the Church Office door.

*Elizabeth*

<b>Mission Prayer Diary</b>	
	<i>Scripture Union—pray for work among young people</i>
1st	Pray for the SU Board of Trustees as they meet today, that they will have wisdom and discernment as they review the draft budget and annual objectives
2nd	SU Taiwan provides Daily Bible Notes and the children's Sunday School "Yes! Bible" to hundreds of Chinese churches in 18 countries
3rd	SU Mauritius ask for prayer for the children and youth programmes on Rodrigues Island, follow-up work and prayer walks that they are planning
4th	Guardians of Ancora clubs are up and running again in schools, churches and community settings. Pray for vision and energy for group leaders, for children to love coming along, searching conversations and great relationships to be built
	<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	Shanti Foundation works in Nepal with people who have suffered slavery, sexual abuse and human trafficking. Many Nepalis have taken jobs in Kuwait where they have been treated very badly before being returned to Nepal after almost 3 years (so they cannot apply for Kuwaiti citizenship, which requires 3 years residence).
10th	Anglican Church in Mozambique is helping many who have been forced to leave their homes and livelihood due to armed groups burning villages, beheading villagers and kidnapping.
11th	Food parcels and other assistance are being provided in the Ocuva refugee camp in Mozambique
12th	The long war in Yemen has destroyed much of the country. Tearfund partners are working among the homeless and poverty-stricken, helping people to start again with ways to earn money
	<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	“Jigsaw at home” has enabled many of Jigsaw’s ministries to continue through the pandemic by weekly distribution of weekly packs, doorstep visits and online support
15th	100 children have received education through sponsorship
16th	IT equipment (tablets etc) is being provided so that poor families can access Bible passages and children can learn while unable to attend schools

	<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	MAF has set up HF Radio transmitter at Enga Baptist Health Centre in Yenkisa, Papua New-Guinea. MAF has received government accreditation in Liberia. Throw up a shout of praise to our faithful Father!
22nd	MAF Liberia has delivered 6,720 French Bibles to Zwedru, and these were handed out by MAF partner Wordsower to unreached communities across the border in Ivory Coast
23rd	After 2 years, the construction of a new church building has been completed in Kuebunyane, Lesotho. MAF worked alongside Lesotho Flying Pastors to deliver building materials. Pray for the new church
24th	A new airstrip has been opened in Wetap, Papua New-Guinea and a new hangar has been built in Mareeba, Australia. Pray that these new facilities will assist in God’s work

	<i>The Bible Society is working in many countries</i>
25th	Pray that the distribution of Bible resources inside mainland China will run smoothly and that all obstacles will be overcome. Pray that pastors and congregations will receive the Bibles.
26th	Pray for Hong Kong Christians who have settled in England and Wales, that they will find churches and that they will recover from wounds they feel from being forced out of Hong Kong
27th	Pray for the people of Mali and the work of the Malian Bible Society. The building of a "Bible House" is planned, something that will provide facilities for pastors and teachers
28th	Pray that the "Open the Book" ministry will continue to expand worldwide so that Bible story-telling will take place in more and more schools

## **Swing High, Swing Low**

Close to our house is a tiny play area, just a few swings but a great place for the local children. I remember the time when some stolen jewelry was found. What excitement for the children! They felt like the Famous Five but for the most part it has just been a nearby place for swings and to meet friends. I was surprised therefore to see the swings in action on a school day in January. Looking through the window I saw not a school-skiving child but a workman in full orange flossie jacket. With great exuberance he was swinging to and fro obviously enjoying a treat, How lovely to see the child within!

Matthew 18:2-4 (NIV)

*2 He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. 3 And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.*

Jesus wasn't talking about having fun on the swings more likely about humility and the reliance children have to have on others (including the swing being safe to use!) but I like to think we have that child within us, who is prepared to trust our wonderful Lord! Have fun in February! *Enid*

### Keele's Month of Welcoming Students

Keele, Staffs & Harper got together mid-November in Oswestry, to be equipped for evangelism! We had my fellow Staff Worker (SW), Matty Lavelle, come speak on Daniel and how to live faithfully as exiles in university. It's certainly been the most organised and well-thought-out weekend away Keele has done. While, it's always been good fun, it's not always landed well in terms of equipping students for evangelism. However, Matty's material was sharp and led to many encouraging and challenging discussions. It was so great to see freshers really engage and get excited to think about how they could share Jesus with their friends on campus!

Additionally, "A", a non-Christian student, who had been coming to CU meetings regularly, since Keele's last Events Week, gave her life to Christ at the weekend! When I first met "A" at Events Week, she seemed really indifferent to the gospel, but over time, her encounters with Christians in the CU made her experience love, in a way that she had never experienced before. It was honestly a real surprise to see her attend, but we were so glad she did, as she ended up having fruitful discussions with Hannah, KUCU Co-president, and her friend in CU, Beth (who told me she had been praying for "A" everyday), that made her realise this love she was feeling was from God! Since then, she has been attending church regularly and been diving into Mark's gospel with Hannah! Praise God! Please be praying that she will continue to grow her love for Christ!

### Staffs & Harper Updates

Staffs CU ran a Christmas pizza party. Due to it being advertised a bit last minute, it was hard for anyone to find out about the event, and it meant there were fewer people in attendance compared to last year's Christmas event.

*(continued)*

However, we had 6 people come off the back of personal invitations and heard the true meaning of Christmas. Please be praying for these 6 individuals that they might be able to take something away from what they heard.

While Harper couldn't do any Christmas outreach events this term, plans are slowly starting to form for the next term. Please be praying that these plans will happen and that when they do they will bear fruit!

*Matthew*

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### **John Pritchard "Twenty Questions Jesus Asked"**

This latest book by John Pritchard (who was Bishop of Oxford from 2007 to 2014) was published last year. As the title suggest there are twenty sections each exploring a question Jesus asked.

The stand-alone sections are in two halves. The first part imagines the scene from the point of view someone who actually heard the question. Then the author moves us on to a second part which deals with his subtitle to the book "and how they speak to us today".

So, for example, the blind man in Mark 10:51 is asked "what do you want me to do for you?" and we enter into his tension, he desperately wants to see, but has got used to his blind way of life. Then in the second half we are challenged as the author makes us face how we would answer that same question today!

He concludes each section with some ideas for personal prayer and meditation. Filled with John's wisdom and good humour, it has enriched my understanding of the Gospel accounts, and gently challenged my discipleship.

*Roger Vaughan*

## **Bishop to retire**

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The Bishop of Wolverhampton, the Rt Revd Clive Gregory, has announced that he is to retire.

Bishop Clive took on the role in April 2007, overseeing the Episcopal Area of Wolverhampton which includes the Archdeaconries of Walsall and Lichfield, encompassing Wolverhampton, Walsall, Sandwell and other parts of the Black Country and southern Staffordshire.

Bishop Clive (61) said: "After sustained and prayerful reflection over a considerable period of time, I have discerned that this is the right time for me to step aside as Bishop of Wolverhampton.

"It has been a privilege to serve in this role for the past 16 years and I will take with me many fond memories of the wonderful colleagues that I have served with, the faithfulness and inspirational witness of clergy and laity alike across the diverse churches of the Wolverhampton Episcopal Area, and of the City of Wolverhampton itself, a very happy home for my family and I.

"This role is a very demanding one and becoming increasingly so, as the challenges that the Church of England faces become more onerous and complex. I believe that someone with different gifts, new vision, and fresh energy will be best placed to join Bishop Michael and the senior staff team in leading both Area and Diocese onwards.

"I will be excited to discover where God is leading me on my path of discipleship and will hold the people of the Diocese, and of the Black Country and South Staffordshire in my heart as we journey into God's future."

There will be a farewell to Bishop Clive from the Episcopal Area and Diocese at St Matthew's Church in Walsall on Sunday 2 April at 4pm. He will then preach at the Chrism Eucharist at Lichfield Cathedral – an occasion which gathers clergy and lay leaders from across the diocese – on Thursday 6 April before his last parish service at St Peter's Church in Wolverhampton on Easter morning, 9 April.

*(continued)*

Bishop Clive was ordained as a curate in Canterbury Diocese in 1988, serving at St John The Baptist in Margate before moving to the Midlands in 1992 to become Senior Chaplain at Warwick University. In 1998, he became the Team Rector of Coventry East and then moved to Wolverhampton nine years later. He also served as Acting Bishop of Lichfield following the retirement of the Rt Revd Jonathan Gledhill in September 2015 before the arrival of Bishop Jonathan's successor, the Rt Revd Dr Michael Ipgrave, the following year.

Bishop Michael said: "Like very many others across the diocese, I have been extremely appreciative of Clive's ministry and personal support to me over the past six years. Clive's commitment to social justice, climate concern, the welfare of clergy and lay ministers and the City of Wolverhampton itself will leave an indelible mark. I and my colleagues will miss his wisdom, commitment and pastoral care, as well as his fondness for diocesan cricket! We look forward to giving Clive and Jenny a good and fitting farewell in April."

Archdeacon of Lichfield, the Ven Dr Sue Weller, said: "Having served alongside Clive for over eight years as Archdeacon of Walsall and currently as Archdeacon of Lichfield I have greatly valued his insight and his knowledge of the Wolverhampton Episcopal Area, always seeking to grow the kingdom of God. Clive's encouragement and understanding in many complex and challenging situations, will be much missed. I pray for a smooth transition and fruitful ministry in pastures new for Clive and Jenny."

The process to identify Bishop Clive's successor will begin in due course.

## Christingle 2022

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Thank you to everyone who helped to make the Christingle Service so successful.

We made 35 oranges into Christingles, children remembering what the symbols represent. There were a lot of adults and children enjoying the crafts, it was lovely to see so many old faces.

Then into church for the service, Peter gave a talk to us, we sang lots of songs and lit the candles whilst singing 'Away in a Manger', It was a lovely start to our Christmas celebrations.

The Christingle candle collection raised £148.23 thanks to Oulton First School, which together with Christ Church Christingle service collection raised a total of £207.23P, I have forwarded this to the Children's Society for their work with vulnerable and disadvantaged children in the UK.

The Christingle service this year felt almost back to normal after the pandemic - Wonderful !!

Thank you all.

*Sandra Morray*

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## House Boxes 2023

Another year gone Wow!

It's that time again to let me have your house box for emptying, please.

If you could bring it to church and leave it in the Church Office, alternatively let me know and I will collect it from you!

*Sandra Morray*

Tel: 01785 286093

Mob: 07504 992 901

Let me pose a question. What might connect '*The Lead Shot Tower*' in Chester (which is 168 feet tall and now a listed monument) at a factory where I worked until 1982 with '*The Rosetta Stone*'?

Well, in 1799 the Shot Tower was built by the Walker family to produce shot for the muskets used in the *Napoleonic Wars*: in the same year Napoleon's army looted the *Rosetta Stone* during his Egyptian Campaign.

When the British defeated the French, a British officer pinched it from the French officer who had stolen it in the first place.

The Greek writing was translated, not a lot later, by a French scholar which led to the understanding of the other two languages in which the same text was written in symbols on the stone.

What we can say is that it is entirely a consequence of the coincidental circumstances surrounding the movements of the *Rosetta Stone* that the ancient hieroglyphs in '*The Valley of the Kings*' could finally be read for the first time, and this in turn led to the formation of '*Egyptology*'.

We might wonder to what extent the circumstances of our coming to faith in Jesus Christ are themselves coincidences or God's hand guiding the connections we make and resulting in consequences which we could never have imagined.

I know which I believe; how about you?

*'God is able to do immeasurably more than all we can ask or imagine'*  
Ephesians 3: 20

*Dave Rowlands*

## Thoughts by Candlelight

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A few nights ago Sally and I sat down to a candlelit evening meal. However this was no romantic tryst. A failure of a mains cable left the top half of our road with no electric power for nearly twelve hours.

I worried about the fire hazard from the candles, while Sally was concerned about the freezer temperature. In the darkness I automatically reached for the light switches but it was to no avail. There was no TV and we found reading by torchlight quite difficult.

I thought about the countless people around the world who do not have power in their homes, victims of war, poverty, or those living in remote underdeveloped areas.

How we take our power supply for granted!

Then I wondered whether I take the power of God's Holy Spirit for granted. Jesus describes how this comes to those who believe in Him. He says it is like a mighty river. (see John 7:37-39). *Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.*" *By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive.*

I thought back to a time we spent in New Zealand in 1991. At the end of a three month teaching tour about the Healing Ministry of the Church and the Power gifts of the Holy Spirit, Sally and I embarked upon a few days sightseeing in a camper van around New Zealand's beautiful South Island.

As part of this tour we travelled down the Waitaki River valley. Between the 1930's and the 1980's the river was the focus of a massive Hydro Electric building program. There are eight large power stations on the river. The station we visited had a total of seven turbine generators. Each of the Waitaki power stations would be similar.

*(continued)*

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Yet all that power came from just one source, the waters of the river Waitaki as it flows from the Southern Alps to the sea. Because of the river's flow, hundreds of thousands of lights, room heaters, radios, and other electrical appliances would "come to life" when switched on.

Analogies are never perfect, but you might think of the turbines as churches. All the tiny lights, and electric fires could be like individual Christians "coming to life" through the power of the Holy Spirit, when they ask for that power to be "switched on"!

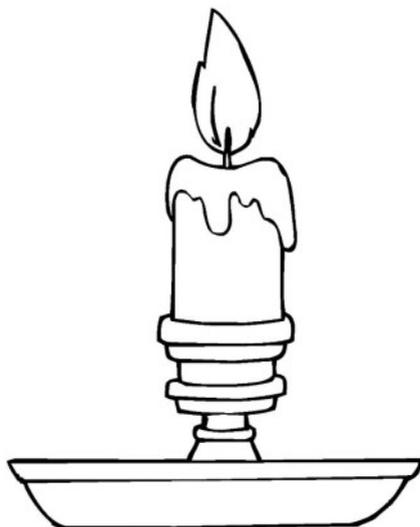
It's quite possible that when Jesus spoke of the Holy Spirit as a river he would also have had in mind the vision of Ezekiel in chapter 47. In this vision Ezekiel sees a mighty river flowing from the temple *"so where the river flows everything will live"* (Verse 9) and the trees that grow on its bank bring God's loving goodness to all. The passage ends *"Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing"*

Spiritually we should not be sitting powerless, as if by candlelight, but bathed in the loving power of God from Jesus who is.....

The Light of the World.

*Roger*

---



Church Mission Society's sister organisation, Asia-CMS pledges to serve countries across Asia.

The challenges Asia-CMS faces include rising fundamentalism, religious extremism, urbanisation, and hostility from some within Asia's other major religions.

Led by indigenous Asians, Asia-CMS initially focused on establishing missionary education hubs. By 2022, Asia-CMS has grown to a team of 28 mission partners across South-East and South Asia, carrying out a range of ministries including church planting, pioneering mission to unreached people groups, theological education, and cross-cultural and leadership training.

During the 10th anniversary celebrations, Rev. Dr. Chan Nam Chen, executive director of Asia-CMS, announced: "Christianity now constitutes nine per cent of the population in Asia and is growing at twice the speed of population growth in Asia. With the exception of the Philippines, Christianity is a minority faith in all Asian countries, and subject to rising fundamentalism and religious extremism..."

Dr. Chen continued: "God has empowered a diverse spectrum of Christian individuals, agencies and denominations to incarnate the truths of the gospel through words and deeds into a vast breadth of human needs and existence."

Two of our Mission Partners – Tim Lee and 'R' – work directly with the Asia-CMS team. Please pray for them, and the rest of the Asia-CMS team, as they continue to serve God by serving others in their time of need, bringing the love of Jesus Christ and His promise of salvation to many more people across Asia.

Information Source: <https://churchmissionsociety.org/blog/news/asia-cms-celebrates-10th-anniversary/>

*Elizabeth*

## 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

### FLOWER ROTA

5th Feb	Mrs E. Nix
12th Feb	
19th Feb	
26th Feb	Lent

### SIDESPERSONS

Judith Kelt
Jeanette Rowlands
Jacqueline Abrahams
Marilyn Overall

### ROADS FOR PRAYER

**5th February**  
 Rangeley View  
 Barnton Edge  
 Rudyard Close  
 Bentley Close

**12th February**  
 Rendel Grove  
 Brindley Close  
 Anderton Way/View  
 Cressy Close

**19th February**  
 Joules Drive  
 Cauldon Way  
 Harecastle Bank  
 Saltersford Rise

**26th February**  
 Rolt Close  
 Millenium Way  
 Cameron Wharf  
 The Crescent

