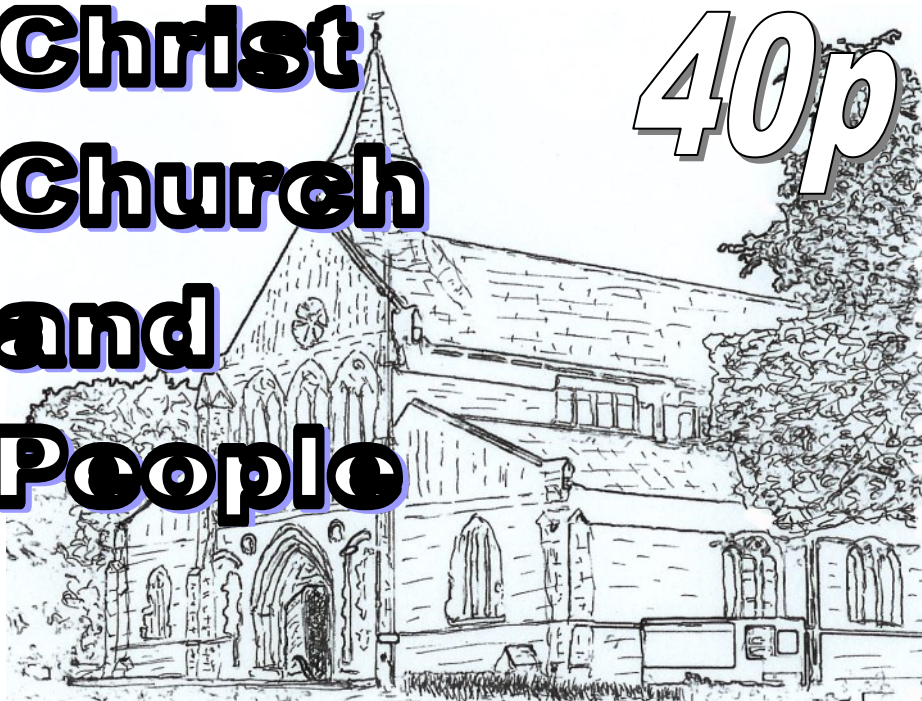


Christ Church and People

40p



July 2023

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 August magazine to us by 15th July

Cover Picture
Mount Crescent

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	magazine@christchurchstone.org

July 2023

	Date	Time	Events (Zoom codes in weekly email)
Sat	1st	8:30 am	Prayer meeting followed by breakfast
Sun	2nd	9:15 am 6:00 pm	Communion; 2 Thessalonians 1:1-7a “Believing under fire” Pastoral training
Mon	3rd	9:30 am	Toddler group
Tue	4th	10:30 am 12:30 pm	Communion; Luke 18:1-14 “Two real prayers” Pursuit club
Wed	5th	9:00 am 3:30 pm 7:30 pm	Christ Church First School assembly Trekkers PCC meeting
Thu	6th	1:10 pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	7th		
Sat	8th		
Sun	9th	9:15 am 3:00 pm 6:00 pm	Morning Prayer & Baptism 2 Thessalonians 1:7b-12 “Waiting for justice” Memorial Service for Ian Morgan at Shallowford House Joseph study
Mon	10th	9:30 am	Toddler group
Tue	11th	10:30 am 12:30 pm	Communion; Luke 18:18-34 “Your money or your life?” Pursuit club
Wed	12th	9:00 am 2:00 pm 3:30 pm 6:30 pm	Christ Church First School assembly Oulton Abbey Nursing Home service Trekkers CCA Celebration evening
Thu	13th	11:00 am 1:10 pm	St Mary’s Home service Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	14th		
Sat	15th		

July 2023

	Date	Time	Events
Sun	16th	9:15 am 6:00 pm	Communion 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12 “Rejecting the lie” Joseph study
Mon	17th	9:30 am	Toddler group
Tue	18th	10:30 am	Communion; Luke 18:31-43 “son of David, Son of God”
Wed	19th	2:00 pm	CCA Leavers’ service with parents
Thu	20th	9:30 am	Christ Church First School Leavers’ assembly
Fri	21st	10:45 am	CCA End of term service
Sat	22nd		
Sun	23rd	9:15 am 6:00 pm	All age service; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17 “Holding to the truth” Joseph study
Mon	24th		
Tue	25th	10:30 am	Communion; Luke 19:1-10 “The lost are found”
Wed	26th		
Thu	27th		
Fri	28th		
Sat	29th		
Sun	30th	9:15 am 6:00 pm	Morning Prayer 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5 “Praying for the gospel” Joseph study
Mon	31st		

6 Artificial Intelligence: Friend, Foe, or on the Fence?

The country that leads the world in Artificial Intelligence “will become the ruler of the world” (Vladimir Putin, 2017). At the time many were aware of Artificial Intelligence (AI) playing a part in their online games and helping to run your home heating system more efficiently. But none had imagined the development of ‘ChatGPT’ launched in November 2022 and by January 2023 had over 100 million users. Its power is a little overwhelming. For example: type in an essay title with a target word count and it will spew out a result in seconds. It gathers data and checks it over and again. Initially it was said to confidently provide inaccurate information, but things are swiftly changing.

The development of AI is now integral to military strategy of the superpowers. It is used to influence the thinking and decisions of the other side, can be used to monitor a soldier’s facial information and state of mind. In civilian life it can be used to influence public opinion, identify terrorists, or to provide social control e.g., facial recognition of minority groups have been reported in some countries. It’s been suggested that this could be a solution to the shortage of care workers with robots that quickly learn to provide bespoke care. When AI was used to compose music, make original artwork, or write poetry a flutter of concern was raised amongst the creative worlds. It can be used to diagnose medical conditions more accurately, since it can compare your data with many thousands of others.

Should we be concerned? Is AI neutral? Is AI a positive thing to embrace? Or something to keep at arm’s length? Christians need to think about the many issues raised by the charting of new territory, although in some ways the radically new technology is raising old issues.



(continued)

Any tool in the hands of humans can be used either for good, or ill. Technology can be fascinating and addictive; it can be used to ease our lives or dominates them; it gives access to a world of information, but also demands much from us and can invade our privacy.

The Bible enables us to realise that we are wonderfully made: 'God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him male and female he created them' (Gen 1v27). IT means we have great dignity, that we're not merely "information processors" (as a professor friend once claimed). But we also learn of our fallenness, which means we can do great harm and make errors. That is why we need to be redeemed, restored to God's origin purpose, empowered for his service and to seek his wisdom for life. We also must set a framework of ethics for using technology for the good of humanity and the glory of God.

Paul Kingman

Memorial Service for Ian Morgan

Heather Morgan is organising a service of Remembrance on Sunday July 9th 3.00pm at Shallowford House with the Bishop of Stafford, Matthew Parker, ex-serviceman colleagues and possibly some of the CCA Choir.

The Indigo Valley Coffee Company

This is the company which has supplied our coffee (& the equipment) for the last 10 years. Andy Stone did the research after he was asked to find a suitable supplier of 'proper coffee'. The Indigo Valley Coffee Company is a small business which was set up in 2005. This was at a time when the fairtrade/speciality coffee market was just beginning. It is a Christian company based at Burford in the Cotswolds. At the start all the beans were bought from Colombia - in small batches.

Other Points of interest

- Since the company began, the roasting team have won 13 Great Taste Awards.
- Every packet is either fairtrade or Rainforest Alliance certified.
- All the coffee is carbon neutral & the whole business is carbon negative.
- The company supports the Slave Free Alliance.
- It also donates to Compassion, a charity which works to support children & their families in the developing world. (We also support Compassion.) This year Indigo Valley is paying for income funding grants to families in the coffee growing areas of Ethiopia.



Andy Stone still orders our Church coffee. Next time you enjoy your Sunday morning cup, remember it was Andy who did the diligent research ten years ago.

Sheila

	Mission Prayer Diary
	<i>Church Mission Society</i>
1st	St Martin's Church in Liskeard, Cornwall, has links with a church in Lamaiti, Tanzania. One of the congregation will visit Lamaiti as part of her agroforestry studies. Pray for strong links between the churches
2nd	Pray for Chris and Suzy Wilson in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, as they teach theology and work in reconciliation and peacebuilding with local Christian leaders.
3rd	Mark and Rosalie Balfour ask for prayer as they work with Street Kids Direct in Guatemala
4th	Nabil and Sarah Shehadi ask for prayer as they work for Alpha International in Lebanon, where the recent 3 years have seen the worst financial crisis in the country's modern history
	<i>Stephen and Tabita Bell are planting churches in Croatia, working with European Christian Mission</i>
5th	ECM's first biennial conference since 2018 (missing due to Covid!) is being held in Umag, Croatia. Praise the Lord that we can now meet! Pray for us all, for a zeal upgrade, as we sit under God's Word, learn in seminars and enjoy encouraging fellowship
6th	It has been such a delight for our whole church that a whole row of seats is now taken by our friends. It helps us be so evangelistic! A Sikh, Muslim, Hindu as well as Catholic. They are so friendly and honour us with their presence. I, Stephen, translate into English for them over headphones. Please pray for them to give their lives to Jesus.
7th	Please pray for Željko, our neighbour, had an awful stroke 20 months ago and is lying in bed, getting up to do exercises to recover his muscles. . We always pray together. He is an open door, we believe. He is in his time of trial and opportunity!
8th	Ljiljana and Antoneta are our neighbours. Ljiljana's son came to our Dubrava kids' club For years Tabita has shared God's plan of salvation with her – but she still hasn't given in to God.

	<i>TearFund works with many poor communities across the world. They especially work through local churches and agencies</i>
9th	Plastic-free July is a global movement to reduce the use of plastic. Give thanks for everybody joining in and consider reducing your own plastic waste
10th	Tearfund has installed handwashing stations and latrines in Democratic Republic of Congo. Give thanks for hundreds who have already used them and have avoided water-borne diseases
11th	Pray for the Church and Community Transformation programme in Ivory Coast which helps poor people grow and sell crops so they can feed their families. Pastor Amani from Zambakra says that already some people have been able to get out of poor living conditions
12th	Wealthy nations promised to deliver \$100 billion to poor countries to help overcome problems of global warming and sealevel rises. Pray that the help will actually be delivered
	<i>Our CMS Link Missionaries Tim and Kate Lee helped to set up JigSaw Kids Ministries in Manila (Philippines). Please pray-</i>
13th	Please pray for Jigsaw as it seeks and follows Jesus guidance to prune and develop Jigsaw as God guides us. Pray that the changes will allow Jigsaw to grow over the months and years ahead. Please pray for wisdom and revelation during this very important process
14th	Please join us in praying for God to intervene and stop the terrible abuses, both physical and sexual for thousands of children in the Philippines. Let's pray together for God to raise up people and find ways to fight these atrocities so that this evil will end.

15th	Please pray for the leadership team, for Jeannette our director, Jenalyn the program manager, the leadership team, Lendehl, Jigsaw's chairperson and the board of trustees. Pray that God may guide them and build them up as they take on more and more responsibility for the work and running of Jigsaw.
16th	We praise God for the new 28 supporters of Jigsaw. Join us in prayer for another 122 new supporters to be found so that Jigsaw can continue its ministry for years to come. Join us too in thanks for ALL Jigsaw supporters who have prayed and given to support the work of Jigsaw during its first 20 years.
17th	Please pray for the following who are sick and in need; Keycelyn who has a dislocated leg, Manilyn for mental health, Baoy who needs healing for his thyroid, Ofelia who has gallstones and an ulcer, Jerzy who has throat cancer, Jeanly for tuberculosis. Molly for a skin disease, Cassandra who has tuberculosis, Isagani Encoy who has a skin allergy and for Thea who has had a relapse after giving birth.
	<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. For technical reasons Christ Church cannot send funds to J&R but individuals are still able to do so</i>
18th	Pray for the opportunity for twenty couples to participate in marriage enrichment and holidays to recover from the Lock down Syndrome through our Marriage Fitness Programme.
19th	Pray for successors and organizations we started in Botswana.
20th	Pray that we will be able to start building a house on our land plot in Uganda
21st	Pray that God provides school tuition and upkeep for Jonathan Junior in Nairobi, Kenya. Pray for the relocation process and the reuniting of the family after many years.
	<i>Mission Aviation Fellowship fly medical personnel, supplies and missionaries to far-flung, often inaccessible settlements.</i>
22nd	Pray that recent visits to South Sudan by Pope Francis and the Archbishop of Canterbury will help bring peace.

23rd	Thanks to MAF flights, Bible teachers were able to share the Gospel in Puluk, Papua. Pray for evangelist Liku, who decided to live among the Puluk community with his family in order to spread the good news
24th	The MAF-run Lutheran Hostel in Papua New Guinea enables children of MAF missionary families to receive a good education. Students board there during terms. Pray that students will enjoy being with other teenagers and not suffer from being away from parents
25th	Earlier this year, over 3000 people came together in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo to celebrate the recent translation of Genesis into the Buda-Nita language. Pray that believers will benefit greatly from reading God's Word in their own language
	<i>The Bible Society is working in China</i>
26th	Pray for Chinese theological scholars in training overseas. May God help them complete their studies successfully
27th	90 million Bibles have been printed and distributed in China since 1987. Official government numbers of Christians are 46 million but this is known to be an underestimate
28th	Pray for spiritual protection for Bible Society teams that focus on China as there are ongoing spiritual battles
	<i>Scripture Union works in many countries to bring God's word to all</i>
29th	Pray for thousands of young people and leaders who will go on SU holidays this summer
30th	Spot the Difference, a holiday for primary age children, starts today. Pray for leaders Steve and Nicola Clarkson and Ruth Hughes and everyone else on the holiday
31st	Nefyn SU camps started on 22nd July and continue through August. Age ranges are 9-11 years up to 16-18 years old

God's "finger print" in creation

In many denominations the Church's Year is divided into two halves. The first half from Advent to Pentecost takes us step by step through the life, death and Resurrection of Jesus culminating in His Ascension and the outpouring of The Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

The second half, starting on Trinity Sunday, is a wider approach to the Christian Faith under the general overall heading of Sundays after Trinity. The word Trinity does not appear in the Bible. It is often thought have been first used by Tertullian in his writing around 213 A.D.

However the word finally came into general use when it was used at the First Council of Nicaea in 325. The Athanasian Creed was finally written around the 5th Century and named after Athanasius of Alexandria because of his staunch defense of Christian Trinitarian orthodoxy at the Council of Nicaea. It is included in the Anglican Book of Common Prayer to be recited at Morning Prayer on certain special feast days. It is a lengthy statement about the mystery of our loving God who is "three in one" which, of course, cannot be explained! Sceptics, agnostics and many others say that the idea of a God who is three in one is impossible!

However when we look at various fundamental facts in creation, which we often take for granted, we see a pattern of "three-in-one" emerging. I like to think this is a bit like God's "finger print" in creation.

For example, every element can potentially exist in three different "states" - solid, liquid and gas. Chemically ice is the same as steam, yet they have different qualities, and can be changed to another state by altering their temperature.

Every electrical device in our lives depends on these "three in one" factors - power, current and resistance. For example the power and current engage with the resistance in the wires of an electric stove and are converted into heat.

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We measure time in terms of past present and future. Two people eagerly anticipate their wedding day which is in the future. The marriage takes place at a particular time which we speak of as "the present moment". Moment is a good description because the present immediately becomes the past. I find it reassuring that Jesus told his disciples before his Ascension "*I am with you always to the very end of the age*" (Matthew 28:20).

Then there is "Boyles Law" basically about the interrelationship between the volume, mass and temperature of a gas. Your refrigerator relies on this law to work. Our computers enable us to print lovely coloured illustrations. Yet we only need three coloured inks, red, yellow and blue, to produce all these beautiful colours.

For me the idea of a loving God who is "three in one" will always remain a mystery. However, just because we cannot possibly explain it, does not mean that it is not true. The one God has been revealed as Father, Son and Holy Spirit in Scripture and creation often echoes this profound mystery. These indications which are so much part of our everyday life are to my mind simple reminders of the wonder of the loving God we worship. They are, if you like, His "Finger Print" in creation.

Roger Vaughan

Every breath counts

Hospitals across South Sudan are benefitting from a consistent supply of medical oxygen thanks to a partnership between MAF and Amref Health Africa.

It takes a minimum of four strong people to load each pair of oxygen cylinders into MAF's plane. For the dispatchers, groaning under the weight of the 130kg load, it's worth the effort. Each of the huge white canisters will save multiple lives. Medical oxygen is an essential part of supportive care for a wide range of acute physical conditions from pneumonia to childbirth complications. Without oxygen, it would be impossible to carry out operations or treat traumatic injuries sustained in road accidents.

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Every breath counts

Without oxygen, the most fragile patients, including the young and the elderly, would quickly lose their lives.

Until recently, oxygen wasn't widely available in South Sudan. Hospitals outside Juba had little or no access to a regular supply of bottled oxygen. Instead, they relied on oxygen concentrators — machines which extract oxygen from the air and require a reliable electricity supply to function. Because hospitals tend to use diesel generators and suffer frequent fuel shortages, when the fuel runs out, the oxygen stops.

Lack of access to medical oxygen in countries like South Sudan was highlighted during COVID-19. At the beginning of the pandemic, South Sudan relied on imported oxygen. Supplies quickly dried up and oxygen-producing countries began to prioritise their own needs over the needs of other nations.

A new oxygen plant, capable of generating 2,500 litres of oxygen a day, was opened at Juba Teaching Hospital in September 2021. Amref Health was called in to help the country's Ministry of Health make the most of this new facility.

With severe safety security challenges facing travellers in South Sudan, and only 400km of paved road, Amref contacted MAF to ensure the oxygen's safe transport.

Pilot Jonathan Pound made the first flight to Malakal in March this year. 'The first time I dropped off the supply at Malakal, they told me it couldn't have come at a better time. They had an outbreak of cholera and were desperate for oxygen to treat the patients.'

MAF has flown 56 cylinders to 8 locations since March, with more flights planned for the coming weeks. The impact, according to Peter, has been significant, with hospital staff saying that their services had really improved.

Tim's visit to the Philippines

It was so wonderful to be back in Manila with the Jigsaw family. After 2 days of flights I finally arrived in the Area 4 community where Jigsaw's office and main centre is situated. Turning the corner into the community and seeing the Jigsaw building, seemed like a dream after two and half years. Before I knew it was surrounded by hugs, tears and the joy of a family reuniting. It was such a wonderful time as we sat together, praised God, shared food and caught up with the news of everyone's lives. All 28 of us shared what had happened to us over the previous 2 years which took some time, but was wonderful. The three weeks I was there was such a significant and special time as we focused on reviewing Jigsaw's organisation and ministry with our eyes set firmly on the mission ahead. After much discussion it became clear that as we entered our 20th year there was a need to both prune and develop parts of Jigsaw in order for it to move forward. I have to say, as we start to prune and develop God is creating a clear and wonderful path for Jigsaw. I will give a full update in the next issue as to how things are going. Thank you Father God for a wonderful time and light for the future.

Jigsaw Ministries parents meetings Focus

One of the very important ministries that has emerged over the last 10 years is Jigsaw's parents' and guardians' monthly meetings and fellowship. They are amazing times where joys, challenges and problems are shared and where the Jigsaw leaders share teaching and facilitate group times on parenting, childcare and bible texts.

In this first quarterly meeting of this year, the focus was on studying the bible to learn and discuss what a Godly family looks like. This special time ended with a time of prayer, coffee, and snacks.

Jigsaw Education Sponsorship Program

Bringing the life changing gift of Education: Jigsaw's education sponsorship program is one of the foundations of Jigsaw's ministries. The program sponsors 79 of the poorest and most needy children to go to school and college. The education program works to empower households and guardians to be able to send their child to school or college when there is no other way that this would happen. This incredible program is made possible by Jigsaw's sponsors.

Sponsors commit to giving a monthly or yearly gift which pays for the child's school uniform, school bag, school supplies and a daily allowance for food and transport. It also contributes to the wages of a social worker who oversees the program and runs a weekly homework club which pastorally cares for each student. The sponsors also commit to praying for their student each day empowering the life changing love and power of God in the students lives. It is an amazing and life bringing program. The goal is to have 150 new supporters for Jigsaw giving an affordable gift of between £5.00 to £60.00/month.

In the first 4 weeks of the campaign there have been 28 new Jigsaw supporters, which is 1/6 the of our target. This is such an incredible response and gives us the optimism and hope that we will be able to restart all of Jigsaw's ministries and activities face to face by the end of 2023.

Jigsaw ladies bible studies

Bible studies started online in lockdown and have now flourished and grown to be over 7 bible studies a week. Jigsaw is so excited that the groups are beginning to meet face to face for fellowship, bible study and prayer. This is the first time for all of these ladies to hear the good news of Jesus. It is so very exciting.

**Biblical tour of the Holy Land; 14 April to 22 April 2024
led by John Marshall**

This tour is a nine day tour which will be visit all the major sites including Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Galilee, the Dead Sea, Jericho and much more. The itinerary is deliberately chosen to visit as many Biblical sites as possible.

I returned from my twelfth visit to Israel just a few weeks ago. It was wonderful to hear from so many who joined me in the tour party. Their comments were so positive I do feel it is right to offer another tour next year. Scripture comes alive as we visit

The tour is posted on my Facebook page and also that of Love Stafford. We are working again with Worldwide Christian Travel so all the details are at <https://www.christian-travel.com/tours/detail/marshalljohn-hl-24.html>.

The travel company really emphasise how important early booking is to reserve the airline seats. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, or if you would like a copy of the printed brochure.

Thank you.

John

John Marshall
19 Heath Drive, Stafford, ST16 1RB
01785 242635
07876 551658

MEN'S BIBLE CLASS.

On Saturday, July 18th, the members had an afternoon's picnic in the beautiful grounds belonging to Mr. George Meakin. They were accompanied by Mr. Wood's excellent band, and spent a very enjoyable time in wandering through the gardens, green-houses, the adjoining wood, and in cricket and tennis. A bountiful tea was spread out under the trees at five o'clock, and ample justice done by the members. After tea, Mr. Pearman proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Meakin for their kindness on that and other occasions. Three cheers were given by the class. The weather, though not all we could wish, did not interfere with the members' enjoyment.

Looking back upon the past six months, we cannot but feel thankful for the success that has followed Mr. Pearman's efforts ; there are now forty-five members, and there has been throughout a deepening interest shown in the study of the Bible. When the class re-opens, it is proposed to take a course on the lives of Old and New Testament worthies.

THE MOTHERS' EXCURSION.

For months past about twenty members of the Mothers' Meeting have been subscribing small sums weekly for a "day by the sea." On Monday, July 13th, the Vicar, Mrs. Thompson, and the mothers left by the first train for Liverpool. Before crossing the river to New Brighton, the Art Gallery was visited, and some time spent in admiring the rich collection of paintings. The Museum also, with its marvellous collection of curious beasts, birds, and fishes, etc., had no small share of admiration. All enjoyed the sail on the river, especially those whom Neptune bore for the first time. At New Brighton, the afternoon was spent in quiet walking over the rocks or round the fort, some bathing, others riding. The weather was throughout of the best, and all returned home very contented and thankful that nothing had occurred to mar the enjoyment of the long-expected "day by the sea."

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

FLOWER ROTA

2nd July	
9th July	Mrs A. West
16th July	
23rd July	Mrs M.Hutchinson
30th July	

SIDESPERSIONS

Jeanette Rowlands
Judith Kelt
Pam Roberts
Jacqueline Abrahams
Pete Kelly

ROADS FOR PRAYER

2nd July
Rudyard Close
Cressy Close
Joules Drive
Cauldon Way

9th July
Harecastle Bank
Saltersford Rise
Rolt Close
Millenium Way

16th July
Cameron Wharf
The Crescent
Millers Gate
Hartley Drive

23rd July
Regent Street
Harding Grove
Oulton Grove
Elmhurst Way

30th July
End Granville Terrace
Darwin Close
Sawyer Way
Goodall Close

