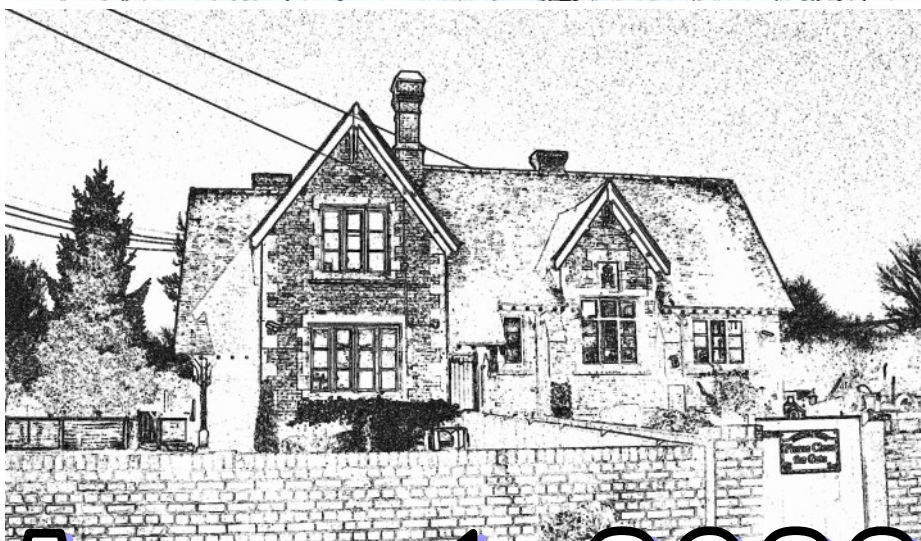


Christ Church and People

40p



August 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 September magazine to us by 15th August

Cover Picture
Meaford School
building

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

August 2023

	Date	Time	Events (Zoom codes in weekly email)
Tue	1st	10:30 am	Communion; Luke 19:11-27 “Rebel or revere?”
Wed	2nd		
Thu	3rd		
Fri	4th		
Sat	5th	8:30 am	Prayer meeting followed by breakfast
Sun	6th	9:15 am	Communion; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-18
Mon	7th		
Tue	8th	10:30 am	Communion; Psalms 42-43 “Facing depression”
Wed	9th		
Thu	10th		
Fri	11th		
Sat	12th		
Sun	13th	9:15 am 6:00 pm	Morning Prayer and Baptism Mark 11:27-33 “A question of authority” Joseph—when life is a roller coaster “Joseph and the brothers: how to forgive the unforgivable”
Mon	14th		
Tue	15th	10:30 am 2:00 pm	Communion; Psalm 51 “Acknowledging guilt” Autumn House service

August 2023

	Date	Time	Events
Wed	16th	2:00 pm	Oulton Abbey Nursing Home service
Thu	17th	11:00 am	St Mary's Home service
Fri	18th		
Sat	19th		
Sun	20th	9:15 am 6:00 pm	Communion; Mark 12:1-12 "A question of identity" Joseph—when life is a roller coaster "Joseph and finishing well: how to leave a legacy that lasts"
Mon	21st		
Tue	22nd	10:30 am	Communion: Psalm 55 "Troubled by anxiety"
Wed	23rd		
Thu	24th		
Fri	25th		
Sat	26th		
Sun	27th	9:15 am	Morning Prayer Mark 12:13-17 "A question of duty"
Mon	28th		
Tue	29th	10:30 am	Communion; Psalm 73 "Wrestling with doubt"
Wed	30th		
Thu	31st		

Playing to the gallery

We live in strange times. Strange because it seems acceptable to play to the gallery in the sense of trying to win public approval in an obvious or showy way. Well, it's OK so long as you don't get found out to be not quite what is on the surface. Perhaps I should put my hand up here, to dispel the groundless notion that the clergy are Teflon coated.

Jesus told a parable, one of those short stories that has a sting. He told it in the hearing of respectable people, the good, who saw themselves as upright if not exemplars of godly living.

The parable concerns two people turning up at the temple to pray. They were at completely different ends of the social and religious spectrum. The first was the religiously devout, zealous to uphold God's law, unstinting in making the right offering at the right time. He was a Pharisee respected if not even revered. The other was a dodgy character who was in cahoots with the occupying forces of the Roman Empire. When you got to the state border you'd encounter a small booth with a zealous collector of taxes. Amongst Israel they were somewhat disdained for fraternising with the enemy but despised for profiteering: they collected extra tax to line their own pockets.

At prayer they used very different language. Those overhearing the Pharisee would learn all about him and come away most impressed by what they had heard: *'God, I thank you that I am not like the other men – robbers, evildoers, adulterers – or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get'* (Luke 18v11-12). It was an eloquent prayer: enough detail without being too long; it showed an awareness of God's law and the responsibility to lead an upright life.



What a contrast with the tax man. He stood well back and didn't even lift his head as he beat his own chest in contrition while he prayed: '*God, have mercy on me a sinner*' (v14). It was all a bit brief.

Here comes the sting from Jesus: '*I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted*' (v14). Ouch! Religious pedigree or performance don't count for zilch. What matters is a true estimate of our need for mercy, and this leads to genuine humility before God.

These two contrasting life responses to God. Which describes us the closest? Let's aim to make it the latter!

Paul Kingman

Bishop writes about Anglican-Methodist unity

I write this blog whilst at the Methodist Conference, held this year in Birmingham. I am here because I am the 'lead bishop' for the Church of England's relations with the Methodist Church. I have a personal interest as someone who was baptised in a Methodist church and whose family, on my father's side, were committed Methodists. Like many, I am a great admirer of the Wesley brothers' warm and generous passion for the gospel.

The Conference is the body that sets policy for the Methodist church. In many ways it is like the General Synod of the Church of England. Indeed, the similarities are marked and many of the issues discussed are common to both our churches, as are the challenges and opportunities.

(continued)

Significant theological and practical differences remain but there is a great deal more that unites us than divides us as churches. This is the experience of many 'on the ground' in parishes, chapels, circuits and deaneries where Anglicans and Methodists work closely together, not least since the establishment of Anglican-Methodist Covenant in 2003.

And what is true of relations between Anglicans and Methodists is true of our relationships with other churches. As Christians of different denominations, we have come a long way from the days of suspicion and competition. We recognise one another as brothers and sisters in Christ. There are good relationships and active local groups of Christians of all traditions meeting and praying together. We have found ways of working together in mission through joint projects such as food banks, Passion plays (such as those held this year in Stafford and Leek) and Street Pastors.

And yet... We still must hear the challenge of Jesus' own prayer to the Father for his church on the night before his crucifixion: "I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you." Unity amongst all God's people is no optional 'nice to have'. It appears to be fundamental, reflecting the very nature and character of God and God's purposes for the world. The continuing divisions within Christ's church are a scandal, a stumbling block. We are to be one, says Jesus "so that the world may believe that you have sent me." We must be one so that the world will believe. The corollary of that being if we are not one the world will not believe. We rejoice at how far we have come but know there is much still to do.

We commit ourselves to working where we can, when we can, with sisters and brothers from other denominations, not as some add-on to the rest of our work as a churches but in obedience to Jesus' desire that all those who have heard the message and believe may be one so that the world may believe.

	Mission Prayer Diary
	<i>Church Mission Society</i>
1st	Sarah and Simon Cawdell write “Please pray for us as we settle into life at Gulu and the Archbishop Janani Luwum Theological College (Uganda)”. Sarah will be the new Principal and Simon will develop contacts in the diocese and run ‘Rooted in Jesus’ courses
2nd	Pray for Azaria Spencer as she works with young people in Guatamala
3rd	Sam Malish works with children from South Sudan in refugee camps in Uganda. Pray for God to use Sam’s work to make a real difference in the lives of refugee children
4th	Praise God for Lighthouse Arab World, which uses a variety of media to share the Christian message throughout the Arab world. Tamar Dawood is one of their content creators
	<i>Stephen and Tabita Bell are planting churches in Croatia, working with European Christian Mission</i>
5th	Temperatures have been soaring in Zagreb (36C now at 6pm on 16th July, but has been much higher). Those who can leave the city and move to the hills. Pray for many who suffer in the great heat in Croatia and other Mediterranean countries.
6th	August is a less active time for the church in Zagreb (see yesterday’s prayer request). Pray that those who seek the Lord will find Him even if church meetings are few.
7th	Stephen wrote “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	Floods have wiped out many crops in Pakistan. Along with rising inflation, food prices have risen and many have been pushed into poverty. Pray for success in Tearfund's crop and seed distribution programme
10th	Tearfund is working with the dioceses of Hyderabad and Peshawar to support communities. Pray that church leaders helping communities recover
11th	Tearfund's partners are working in Cox's Bazar, on the Bangladesh coast, providing cash grants so that poor people can start small-scale farming projects
12th	Tearfund's solar programme teaches people in Yemen to build solar-powered stoves. These can cook one meal a day, saving fuel costs and reducing the environmentally-damaging demand for firewood
	<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	Uphold regular MAF flights like those that enabled eye doctors to visit Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya. Pray too for Concern Worldwide — another MAF partner — which tackles the causes of extreme poverty in countries such as Chad, Kenya, Liberia and South Sudan

23rd	Give thanks for MAF Madagascar's partner Good News Hospital. The Christian hospital enables people in Mandritsara to receive the treatment they need but cannot afford. It recently ran a clinic in Mananara that treated 200 patients. May God bless all the work of their hands
24th	A one-year-old boy on Atauro Island suffering from pulmonary disease was separated from the mainland by about 20 miles of water. Give thanks that we were able to fly him to Guido Valadares National Hospital (HNGV) in the capital Dili in less than an hour.
25th	Good Health and Well-being.' Give thanks for MAF flights overcoming the barriers preventing countless people from receiving basic healthcare. Pray especially for MAF's medical safari work in countries such as Kenya, Madagascar and Tanzania, and the medical professionals using MAF each day
	<i>The Bible Society is working in African countries</i>
26th	Thank the Lord for the success of "Open the book" in Kenya, and that more schools will invite the teams in
27th	The Bible storytelling ministry is expanding in Uganda, Ghana and The Gambia, and 5 Portuguese-speaking countries will join the programme in 2023
28th	Pray for the "Open the book" programme worldwide– including our own Christ Church team working in schools in Stone and Oulton
	<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 have been on SU holidays this summer, that the experience of Jesus will stay with them
30th	Criccieth beach mission has now been running for over 100 years
31st	Pray for SU in Estonia as they develop a new Bible App for mobile phones

A waitress brings your meal and you automatically say “thank you”. It’s the polite thing to do, and no doubt we say it without thinking several times each day.

But sometimes our thanks goes a bit deeper. For example, a friendly AA mechanic spends half an hour getting soaked in the rain, sorting a problem out on our car. We are truly thankful for his help in our time of crisis. We remember the incident, and have vague memories of the mechanic, but as his van drives off our personal relationship with him comes to an end.

Thirdly there are ongoing relationships, where many actions, maybe over the years, produce a profound sense of thankfulness not just for the actions but for the person concerned. That word thankfulness is significant here. We are indeed “full of thanks” that this person is part of our life.

St Luke emphasises this in his account of the ten lepers who came to Jesus to be healed. (Chapter 17:11-19). Nine of the ten were Jews and need to have their healing verified by the priest. No doubt they were pleased that this wandering preacher had “fixed” their problem, (rather like the AA man!). Now they could just get on with their lives.

But one was different. As a Samaritan he needed no formal verification process for his healing. However, as he realised he was no longer a leper and that his whole life was changed, he went back to the person who had made this possible. *“One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan”.* No doubt, every day, for the rest of his life he would remember Jesus and be filled with thankfulness.

Jesus is changing our lives, and like the grateful leper, we should keep coming back to Him...full of thanks for His love for us.

Roger

Farewells and Wedding Bells

In his latest newsletter, Matthew Leung, U.C.C.F. Staff Worker for the NW Midlands, updates us with news of end of year activities at Keele and Staffs Universities, and Harper Adams College.

During May most CU activities focussed on farewells to final year students including Josh (former Keele CU president), who will be taking on the role of Relay Worker at Coventry University. There were also farewells for Sam who has been Matthew's Relay Worker for the past year and is now moving to Coventry to serve at Hillfields Church as an intern. Unfortunately, Matthew does not have a Relay Worker assigned to him for next year. Matthew has also been saying farewell to students who started University during his first year as Staff Worker for NW Midlands, three years ago. This ministry certainly has not been easy for Matthew, at times, but seeing the faith of students grow, and the ways in which they have shared the Gospel, has been a real encouragement. Matthew sees it as a blessing and privilege working alongside students who are keen to learn more about Jesus and Christianity.

In June, the new CU committee members started to plan for the year ahead. Matthew was really encouraged by the Harper CU committee, who worked with the one outgoing committee member, to organise an evangelistic BBQ/Grill A Christian event, for 20+ guests.

Matthew asks for prayer for:

- Student CU leaders attending FORUM National conference week - 29th August - 2nd September
- God's guidance and wisdom, for the 3 CU committees as they develop plans for Freshers' Welcome week - 18th-22nd September.
- Students to respond to the invitation to join the CU next term, especially at Harper Adams.
- Strength and encouragement for Matthew during the next academic year, working on his own, without a Relay Worker.

continued

At the end of term, Matthew along with Beth (Staff Worker from Birmingham) led a group of 7 students from the Midlands, on a two-week trip to Bulgaria (5th to 16th July) to assist during a summer camp for the Bulgarian I.F.E.S. students. The UK team has been given the task of preparing the morning devotionals each day.

The highlight of the summer holidays, for Matthew and his fiancée, Rosie, will be their wedding day sometime in August. Please pray that God will bless them both with good health, guidance and much joy in their future life together. May everything they say and do be to the glory of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. A card will be sent to Matthew and Rosie on behalf of everyone at Christ Church.

For more details please see Matthew's latest newsletter in the folder beneath the Mission Matters noticeboard in the Church centre.
Elizabeth

Love your burial ground!

This year's Love your Burial Ground Week and Churches Count on Nature 2023 witnessed the successful organisation of over 400 activities and events throughout the UK. These events encompassed a wide range of activities, such as 'nature counts' in churchyards and memorial recording in urban cemeteries. Lichfield Cathedral ran wildlife recording activities in the Cathedral grounds with Lichfield Cathedral School and Cathedral volunteers.

If you are interested in participating next year, please note that Love your Burial Ground week will be held from Saturday 8 June to Sunday 16 June 2024. Contact

Caring for God's Acre, 11 Drovers House, The Auction Yard,
Craven Arms, Shropshire SY7 9BZ tel 01588 673041,

Email enquiries@cfga.org.uk

This term has flown by! But our work in schools has continued unabated, and we've had fun while doing it! In Christ Church First School and Oulton First School we have continued with our Open the Book assemblies. For the uninitiated, Open the Book (OTB) is a Bible Society set of materials which includes dramas and ideas for assemblies for schools. The children enjoy them a lot, and it's a great way to bring bible stories to life and introduce children to the richness of them. This term we have been doing two modules: 'Women Who Dared To Do Right' and 'Meals To Remember'. These have involved the vicar climbing up a tree as Zacchaeus, and two of our cast members getting married on stage (all pretend!) as David and Abigail. These stories have been so much fun to perform, and a child recently said they enjoyed how I am often cast as Jesus! Hopefully they will remember all the stories they have heard and will have taken to heart the character of God they have found within.

Meanwhile, in Christ Church Academy, this term has been spent looking at the life and reign of King David (coinciding with the coronation and themes of kingship.) These assemblies go a little deeper into the messaging, but the children have still enjoyed hearing the exploits of David, especially when he was young – defeating Goliath, and evading Saul. It all built up to the moment where King David brought in the Ark of the covenant – and made a fool of himself by dancing for the Lord. Hopefully the children will have understood the importance of following God's ways and trusting in Him for their success.

Do be praying for this work that goes on – we are blessed with the support we have from the schools, and we hope it will continue long into the future!

Peter Cuthbert

Psalm 146: 1, 4-5 declares:

1 Praise the Lord.

How good it is to sing praises to our God,
how pleasant and fitting to praise Him!...

4 He determines the number of the stars
and calls them each by name.

5 Great is our Lord and mighty in power;
His understanding has no limit.

'He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name.' REALLY?

How can the Psalmist be so sure that God can do this?

Genesis 26: 4 backs up the Psalmist's confident claim:

The Lord appeared to Isaac and said...

" I will make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky".

Only our God, the Creator of heaven and earth and everything in it, knows all these things and reveals them to us through His Word. '*His understanding has no limits*'. Great is our Lord!

Elizabeth

Give thanks to God for the magazine editor

This is planned to be the final magazine edited by Dave Bell, one of our Readers based at Christ Church, but ministering across the benefice over many years. It has been a regular job that he has managed to do over several years. We are thankful to God for your continued work behind the scenes and finding interesting extra articles.

We give thanks to God for your work and all that it has brought to the wider community.

Paul Kingman

Biblical tour of the Holy Land

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 01785 242635, 07876 551658

Christ Church 93 years ago

Choir Treat

The choir treats have been fixed pro-visionally for the following dates:—On Saturday, August 16th, the gentlemen of the Choir will go for their annual trip by Char-a- banc, for the afternoon and evening, and on Tuesday, August 12th, the boys' treat will take place. For the latter occasion we hope to visit Liverpool Cathedral and Birkenhead, returning via Chester.

Young Wives' Fellowship

The first annual outing took place on Wednesday, July 9th, when twenty-five mem-bers and twenty-two children travelled by motor coach to sunny Rhyl, and spent a long happy day on the seashore.

The Garden Party

held in the Vicarage Garden on June 26th, was much enjoyed by all who were able to be present. We were favoured with fine weather, (the one great essential for an out-of-doors gathering). This, and the splendid co-operation of all our friends by their gifts, and by their untiring efforts on the day, combined to make it not only a time of happy social intercourse, but a financial success, thus enabling us to substantially reduce the outstanding debt on the Parish Room.

After the opening ceremony by Miss Parker-Jervis, the lawns presented an animated scene, as the attractive and well-laden stalls were quickly depleted of their goods.

The excellent programme of songs and folk-dancing, provided by our school children, contributed largely to the enjoyment of the occasion. Great credit is due to those responsible for their training.

Benefit Guild

On July 12th, the members of the above Guild, accompanied by their men-folk, indulged in a motor coach tour to Lilleshall and Shrewsbury. This, their first outing was much enjoyed, and will in all probability prove the forerunner of many such happy occasions.

G. F. S. Outing

A very enjoyable afternoon was spent by some of the members of the G. F. S. on Thursday, July 3rd. The party went by a luxurious motor coach, first to Croxton Abbey, where the ruins were visited; then on to the Bird Sanctuary at Hawksmoor. After tea in the keeper's cottage, the party was personally conducted over the Sanctuary, by Mr. J. R. B. Masefield of Cheadle, who made an excellent and interesting guide. Later, the party went on to explore the beautiful garden of Mr. Masefield's residence, "Rosehill," Cheadle, where we were cordially welcomed by Mrs. and Miss Masefield and some of the associates and members of the Cheadle branch

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

6th August	
13th August	Mrs B. Boote
20th August	
27th August	Mrs K. Thompson

SIDESPERSIONS

Jeanette Rowlands
Judith Kelt
Pete Kelly
Pam Roberts

ROADS FOR PRAYER

6th August	13th August
Candler Drive	Alexandra Street
Chandler's Way	Berkeley Street
Albert Street	Chestnut Grove
Arthur Street	Edward Street
20th August	27th August
Field Terrace	Mount Avenue
Field House Court	Mount Crescent
Kent Grove	Mount Road
Meaford Avenue	Mount Street

