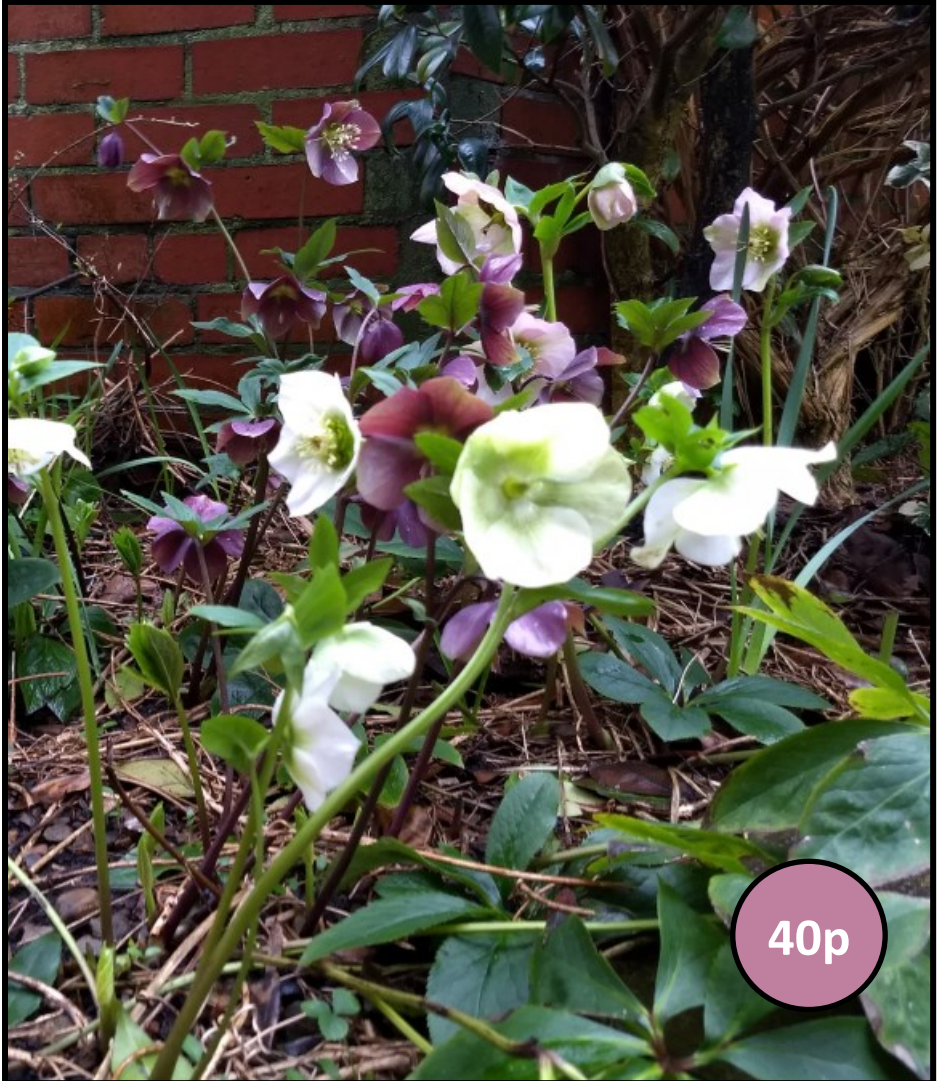


Christ Church Magazine

April 2024



40p

PARISH DIRECTORY

SUNDAY SERVICES

Details of our services are given on page 4.

THE PARISH TEAM

Vicar	Paul Kingman The Vicarage, Bromfield Court	812669
Children & Families Worker	Peter Cuthbert peter.j.cuthbert@btinternet.com	07733 042205
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 Magazine



Please send your articles for the May magazine to us by 15th April

Cover Picture:
Hellebores in a garden
in the parish

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

April 2024

	Date	Time	Events (Zoom codes in weekly email)
Mon	1st		<i>Easter Monday (Bank Holiday)</i> Setting up for Holiday Club
Tue	2nd	10.30 am 1.30 pm	Communion; Mark 16: 1-8 “To be continued...” Sporting Legends—Holiday Club
Wed	3rd	1.30 pm	Sporting Legends—Holiday Club
Thu	4th	1.30 pm	Sporting Legends—Holiday Club
Fri	5th	1.30 pm	Sporting Legends—Holiday Club
Sat	6th	8.30 am	Prayer meeting followed by breakfast
Sun	7th	9.15 am	Holiday Club service; 2 Samuel 5: 1-12 and 6: 1-2
Mon	8th	9.30 am	Toddler group
Tue	9th	10.30 am 12.30 pm	Communion; Mark 12: 35-40 “The conundrum resolved” Pursuit Club Christ Church Academy
Wed	10th	9.00 am 3.30 pm	Christ Church First School assembly Trekks
Thu	11th	1.10 pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	12th		
Sat	13th		
Sun	14th	9.15 am	Morning Prayer; Luke 9: 18-27 “Plain speaking”
Mon	15th	9.30 am	Toddler group
Tue	16th	10.30 am 12.30 pm 2.00 pm	Communion; Mark 15: 33-47 “Surely this was the Son of God” Pursuit Club Christ Church Academy Autumn House service

April 2024

	Date	Time	Events
Wed	17th	9.00 am 2.00 pm 3.30 pm	Christ Church First School assembly Oulton Abbey Care Home service Trekks
Thu	18th	11.00 am 1.10 pm	St Mary's Home service Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	19th		
Sat	20th		
Sun	21st	9.15 am 4.00 pm	Communion; Colossians 1: 1-8 "Faith, hope and love" APCM in church centre
Mon	22nd	9.30 am	Toddler group
Tue	23rd	10.30 am 12.30 pm	Communion; Mark 12: 1-12 "The capstone" Pursuit Club Christ Church Academy
Wed	24th	9.00 am 3.30 pm	Christ Church First School assembly Trekks
Thu	25th	1.10 pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	26th		
Sat	27th		
Sun	28th	9.15 am 5.00 pm	All age; Colossians 1: 9-14 "What we pray for and why" Romans Course (session 7) at the Vicarage
Mon	29th	9.30 am	Toddler group
Tue	30th	10.30 am 12.30 pm	Communion; Mark 12: 35-40 "The Son of David" Pursuit Club Christ Church Academy

The old saying, *“There are lies, damned lies and statistics”* was attributed by Mark Twain to Benjamin Disraeli, the 1st Earl of Beaconsfield, who twice served as Prime Minister.

The saying has other possible sources too, such as this: *“A well-known lawyer, now a judge, once grouped witnesses into three classes: simple liars, damned liars, and experts. He did not mean that the expert uttered things which he knew to be untrue, but that by the emphasis which he laid on certain statements, and by what has been defined as a highly cultivated faculty of evasion, the effect was actually worse than if he had”* (Nature, 26 Nov 1885)

Scepticism is not new. Has scepticism increased over time? Nowadays we have investigative journalism, undercover programmes, fact checking sites and video footage from multiple witnesses (due to the mobile phone revolution). All has become more sophisticated. We also have spin doctors and tricksters who aim to deceive. We also have Artificial Intelligence which can produce very convincing alternatives to reality. Perhaps we have more information and more scrutiny?

With regards to the resurrection, Thomas was sceptical. He got the nickname “doubting Thomas” because of doubting the veracity of what the others told him. John records the sequence of events: *‘Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe”* (John 20v24-25). Thomas was not convinced by verbal reports from the other disciples. He wanted to see for himself.



A further week on and his questions were answered: *‘A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them.*

7 **The resurrection, beyond doubt... (cont)**

Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." (20v26-29).

The physical presence of Jesus blew out of the water any objections that he had. He was now Thomas the disciple, the worshipper of Jesus.

The value of the Gospel accounts is that we have eye-witness reports. John had carefully recorded the life and times of Jesus for a single purpose: *'Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name'* (John 20v30-31).

We invite you to join us on Sundays to find out more and grow in understanding. To move from sceptical doubt to take up the invitation to be a disciple, to move from being a sceptic to Son-worshipper! For the resurrection stands as evidence of how Jesus has paid for our sins on the cross, defeated death and now offers life eternal. This is for all who believe and trust in him, the Messiah (Christ) the only Son of God.

Paul Kingman

Sporting Legends

Tuesday 2nd – Friday 5th April, 1.30 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.

This year's 4 day fun adventure for school years Reception to Year 6 is taking place at Christ Church Centre. There will be games, songs, crafts, puppets and drama featuring a sporting legend from the Bible!

Sunday 7th April "Sporting Legends" 9.15 a.m. breakfast and special service at Christ Church – please pray, join in, and welcome visitors and come to see what the children have been learning.

Reflections on Holy Week

At Christ Church Academy, pupils have been learning about Holy Week and its importance for Christians. After reading the Gospel accounts of the events, they were given a choice of reflective tasks through which to show their understanding of the significance of the story in the lives of believers. A good number of children chose to present their responses as poems.

Both were written by boys in Key Stage 3.

HOLY WEEK

Holy week, Holy week,
Jesus was extremely meek.
He was betrayed,
But he was not afraid.
His life came down to a
Decision from Pilate.
His death was very violent.
His head was cut, legs were beaten,
Carrying the cross when he had not eaten.
He was nailed to the cross,
Tears were shed,
He was laid in a tomb,
Placed on his deathbed.
He was raised from the dead,
United the nation,
That's why Jesus is the incarnation.

BETRAYAL

Before you betrayed me, we had the Last Supper

End of a friendship

The money wasn't worth the betrayal

Running from your sins

A kiss was all it took

You would regret this for the rest of your life

And all of the love from the disciples

Lost all away.

Thoughts on Romans (The Lent Course)

For various reasons I have grown up with the idea that the book of Romans is a rather 'heavy' book, so when we were given this study in Romans for our Lent course I was interested to see whether I would feel differently after working through the ten sessions.

At the time of writing we are only half way through the course and I must admit that I am finding the studies very interesting and the book of Romans not at all 'heavy'. This is due in part, I believe, to the presenter Andrew Ollerton, who has such a friendly manner and pleasant voice. In fact in the book of Romans there are very valuable lessons for us. So yes, I am grateful that the Lent course has featured the book of Romans.

Diana Tunstall

We arrived on Saturday afternoon (2nd March) to a packed Church Centre and added our home-bakes for the tables already groaning under the weight of goodies from very many excellent home bakers around the parish. In another corner, a table for the exchange of accessories was being artistically arranged.

Tables for us to sit at with our friends were beautifully dressed with table cloths and floral arrangements. They also had some table quizzes on them on the theme of fashion design. A logo sheet, some fashion designers and one with clothing styles. These certainly got everyone talking.

Joyce Baynes bravely took centre stage to talk about her faith journey and growth over the years as a Christian. We knew that Joyce and her husband Ray were members of the Salvation Army but, surprisingly, Joyce's talk did not focus on this part of the journey. From a Billy Graham crusade in the 1960s and onward travel, Joyce had been on many postings and locations. In down to earth terms, we learned about her many moves, challenges and growing conviction that God was calling her and her husband to live out their faith. Joyce told us about the many influential souls she had met on that journey and the one or two difficult ones! Joyce and Ray had learned to trust in the providence of God and the odd miracle or two at the right moment in time showing that their trust had not been in vain. We all appreciated Joyce's honest account and truthful description of times that had not always been so easy but we learned that trusting in Jesus as Lord had not let them down.

All the company enjoyed the tea party which followed, a chance to swap bags, beads and scarves on display and the opportunity to socialise at long last.

MC

A New Mum's Year

She arrived on Saturday at 7am
As we couldn't wait to hold our gem
All swaddled up as snug as a bug
I'll always remember that first hug

Her tiny face and little ears
And perfect features that brought me to tears
I never thought this would be
A miracle that happened to me

The first few weeks were pretty mad
As we started our journey as new Mum and Dad
Plenty of nappies and sleepless nights
Whilst sterilising bottles and washing whites

A few months in I'm becoming a pro
I'm out and about and she's starting to grow
I've lots new outfits to put her in
As I take plenty of photos of her daily grin

8 months have gone by and I'm stopped in my tracks
As baby brain sets in and I'm googling for facts
My pea puree has gone down like a lead balloon
And I've lost her favourite book about the moon

It's been a year where has that gone
I cannot believe she's turned one
Our little girl is growing up fast
Let's cherish these moments and make them last



February 2024

February has been an interesting month – the weather has ranged, as you know, from teeming rain to glorious sunshine and everything in between, but the wildlife and scenery along the canal are always a blessing.

This month I have chatted to some would be WW chaplains, supported two new probationary chaplains over at Burton-on-Trent, helped a boater fill in a Universal Credit application, accompanied a boater to a Job centre interview, moved 8 bags of rubbish from a boat to the recycling centre and generally chatted to the boaters and towpath users I have met along the way.

I attended a WWC National Training Day in Stoke-on-Trent which was really interesting and great to meet lots of other WWCs from round the North. One of the workshops talked about ‘**Jesus Shaped Chaplaincy**’ – how chaplains are to be and what they can offer through Jesus - **Security** – Knowing who you are and your mission, **Availability** – being there for people in need, **Dignity** – seeing people as precious, made in God’s image with free will, **Transformation** – offering people a new beginning and **Reconnection** – loving God and being part of community. Some food for thought there!

WWC is overseen by Church Army (part of the Church of England) and some of the talk revolved around funding for the organisation going forward – a struggle for all charities. If any of you feel moved to help fund this vital work - Waterways Chaplaincy is funded entirely by donations – You can donate to our work in any of the following ways...

by Online banking or Standing order:- Donate to **Church Army** using Sort Code **20-49-81** Account number **80255459**, and please add the reference **WWC1600**

Or to Donate by Cheque, Make your cheque payable to “**Church Army – Waterways Chaplains**” and send to Waterways Chaplains, Church Army, Wilson Carlile Centre, 50 Cavendish Street, Sheffield. S3 7RZ

Thank you for your support. Please continue to pray for all boaters and users of the towpath in our town.

Many blessings – *Helen*

Hospital Notes 48

‘GAINING KNOWLEDGE and INSIGHTS’

Here are brief reports on two events which are quite interconnected that I have attended since my last ‘Notes’.

First, ‘*Chaplaincy Volunteers Training*’ at RSUH on 26th February.

After opening prayers the time was mainly spent in attempting to understand the nature of the various types of Dementia and particularly Alzheimer’s which is the most common form of the disease.

We also listened to real encounters with patients, hearing their stories, the responses that were made and how these affected those who had made the visits.

Overall this was very helpful and will hopefully enable me to respond more effectively and with greater understanding and empathy in the future.

Next, the event that I, and three others from the SPaRC team, attended on 1st March. This was entitled...

“The Case for Contemplative Care”

It took place at ‘St. Christopher’s Care’ in Sydenham, Kent. This is where the modern hospice movement was founded in 1967 by Dame Cicely Saunders who is noted for her research into terminal care and exploring the importance of palliative care and support for end of life patients and their families.

We arrived just in time for the start after 3 train journeys and a taxi ride. The day focussed on how to provide the best possible care for end of life patients.

There were some impressive speakers and challenging exercises all aimed at enabling us to learn how to connect better with people and especially towards making short encounters meaningful through being real, honest and self-aware.

We particularly thought about being with others in their suffering, finding beauty in decay and helping them to live life until the end of their lives. Some examples of ways to enable this are using empathy as a bridge to compassion, allowing space for things to happen and acknowledging that we might have done it before but we have never done it now.

As you might imagine the day left us all with much to think about and to utilise when visiting our patients in hospital. *Dave Rowlands*

Children and Families Report

Our regular children and families' work has been continuing as usual, with a lot of planning for the upcoming holiday club, easter services, and good Friday crafts event!

This week we will be doing easter services in both of the first schools and Christ Church Academy, as it's the last week before the schools break up for their Easter holiday. These are always a great opportunity to be able to deliver the good news of Jesus' death and resurrection to all of the children and parents, and we do pray that they go well!

Open the book Assemblies have continued well throughout this turn. We are just finishing the Easter story with the resurrection being our drama for this week! These assemblies are always well received by the children, and we enjoy doing them (even if we have had to tweak the pre-written Bible society schedule quite a bit!)

Toddlers continues to be well attended on a Monday morning and the children listen well to the bible story, which is great to see.

The Pursuit lunchtime club has also been going well this term! The move to the drama room (with more space and more scope to play active games) seems to have really helped to engage more boys, and we've seen consistently good numbers. We have been gearing up to Easter, looking at the various parts of the story by focusing on different objects (e.g the crown of thorns, palm leaves, the towel that Jesus washes the disciples' feet with, etc), and the club is now rehearsing for their upcoming Easter service.

In our regular Thursday assemblies at CCA we have been doing a series on Elijah, showing how God looks after him even when he's grumpy.

Sunday school continues to be a bit hit and miss in terms of numbers. Some weeks we only get 1 or 2 (or even none) and other weeks we get 6 or 7, which makes planning for sessions always a challenge! We also continue to have a wide range of ages, from about 3-13. The past few weeks we have been following the bible readings from the main Sunday service, which means the children can compare notes with their families afterwards!

The Trekkers afterschool clubs (Wednesday at Christ Church Centre and Thursday at Oulton First School) have continued to go very well – we have been looking at some of the early Old Testament characters. It is particularly encouraging to see the 'Trekkers->Holiday Club pipeline' at work, as we have seen over the past week or two that several of the children from both Trekkers groups have already signed up to Holiday Club. In my experience we don't often get many children from Oulton coming to holiday club, so this has been good to see!

Speaking of holiday club, a lot of our focus over the past couple of weeks has been planning and preparing for the upcoming 'Sporting Legends' holiday club! There are still some preparations to fine tune, and we are hoping for a few more sign ups, but I'm pleased to report we have 18 signed up so far! We also have the Good Friday crafts event, which happens a couple of days before Holiday club, so planning for that is well underway!

The P.C.C. held a meeting on 18th March 2024. During the meeting the following matters were discussed:

- A small team will be looking into how we can work towards becoming a Dementia friendly Church.
- It is hoped that we could sort out a schedule of the work involved in cleaning the church and set up a team of volunteers who could work on a rota basis.
- We are still seeking someone who would be willing to take over as editor of the magazine. The post would involve collecting articles for the magazine and liaising with the Christ Church office who would assist with the printing.
- Three church members have become governors of Christ Church academy and one has taken up a governor position and Christ Church First School.
- Church at Home has become an important monthly event for local care home residents.

The Annual Parochial Church meeting will be held at 4.00pm on Sunday 21st April and the next PCC meeting will be held on Wednesday 22nd May at 7.30pm.

If you are on the electoral roll and want to know more about the running of the church, please consider becoming a PCC member. We meet 7 times a year including the Annual meeting. Nomination boards will be in the church centre foyer.

If you want to know more speak to Shelagh Sanders (PCC secretary) or anyone already on the PCC

CHRIST CHURCH CENTRE, STONE

1:30-4:00PM 2ND-5TH APRIL

FOR CHILDREN IN RECEPTION - YEAR 6

WITH A HOLIDAY CLUB BREAKFAST SERVICE: 9:15AM SUNDAY 7TH APRIL

SPORTING LEGENDS

HOLIDAY CLUB 2024



A 4-DAY FUN ADVENTURE WITH GAMES, SONGS, CRAFTS, PUPPETS AND DRAMA
FEATURING A SPORTING LEGEND FROM THE BIBLE!

TO BOOK YOUR PLACE, VISIT:

WWW.CHRISTCHURCHSTONE.ORG/UPCOMING-EVENTS/

Inner Wheel Friendship Through Service

A short story of Inner Wheel 1924 – 2024

Inner Wheel is an International Women's organisation and it has clubs over 100 countries with over 100,000 members. In Great Britain and Ireland there are 500 clubs divided into 29 Districts with more than 11,000 members.

Many kinds of community service were embarked upon by Rotarians, which often involved the co-operation of their wives in providing hospitality or help in various money-raising activities. The friendship of the wives often initiated further service on their own account and so they decided to form their own independent group which they named 'The Inner Wheel', which symbolised the inner part of the wheel of the Rotary International Badge. The first meeting was held in Manchester on 10th January 1924 and Mrs Margarette Golding was the first President.

This year our club, 'The Inner Wheel' club of Stoke-on-Trent is celebrating 90 years of Friendship Through Service and as I am coming to the end of my year of office as President, I felt moved to write about this wonderful organisation. The charter for our club was granted on 14th March 1934.

Unfortunately the number of causes has not diminished with the passage of time and our club's old minute books illustrate that clearly.

Members have lived through the second world war and they widened their support for the war effort by helping evacuees, The Red Cross and helped the Service Clubs. They have mourned the deaths of three monarchs and celebrated the coronation of their successors. In latter years have lived through three years of the Covid pandemic and its aftermath. We have adapted throughout and have tried to maintain the ideals of Inner Wheel Friendship, Fellowship and Service to others.

Nowadays our club has supported many charities working overseas, Mercy Ships, Hope and Home for Children, Intercare, Sight Savers, The Book Bus, NPAC, Child Aid to Eastern Europe, Teams4U, Partnerships in The Gambia, Afghanistan and Ukraine.

Nearer to home we have supported The Beatrice Boat, Midlands Air Ambulance, Blood Bikes, The Salvation Army Hostel, Headway, Alzheimers, Kidney Research, Buddy Bags (each bag made by members and tailored for the needs of children of various ages fleeing from violent situations) and are still supporting Food Banks. These charities are to name but a few!

How fortunate that we are bound together through friendship and we always have a friend to turn to. We are all so grateful for the Organisation which not only gives us unprecedented friendship, but a united purpose as volunteers working for the good of others.

Marylyn Hillman

Children's Society Boxes

Thank you to all who gave so generously to the Society through the box collection. £265.48p has been sent to them.

Thanks to you, young people across the country can get vital support when they're struggling. Your commitment to fighting for hope has made a real difference to children across the country.

Your continued collections make such a difference. Despite the difficulties of the last few years, house box collections like yours have helped to raise more than £1million for young people who need support and right now they have never needed it more.

THANK YOU:- Every coin counted, every collection made, and every trip to the Bank/Post Office helps children hold on to hope.

If you would like a house box let me know I collect them once a year.

Sandra Morray

Groups and Rotas

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

FLOWER ROTA

7th April:	Flower Guild
14th April:	
21st April:	Flower Guild
28th April:	

SIDESPERSONS

Jacqueline Abrahams
Pete Kelly
Jeanette Rowlands
Dave Rowlands

ROADS FOR PRAYER

7th April

Rendel Grove
Brindley Close
Rudyard Close
Cressy Close

14th April

Joules Drive
Cauldon Way
Harecastle Bank
Saltersford Rise

21st April

Rolt Close
Millenium Way
Cameron Wharf
The Crescent

28th April

End Granville Terr
Millers Gate
Hartley Drive
Regent Street

