

Christ Church Magazine

July 2024



40p

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

In This Issue

July Calendar	4, 5
Where will you put the cross?	6, 7
Working together to create safer spaces	7, 8
Take time to pray	9-11
Tales from the Towpath (10)	12, 13
Roger and Sally	13
Mcknight Family News	14
More than just a cuppa	15, 16
Here Be Dragons!	16, 17
Greetings and love from Botswana	18
Alzheimer's Poem	19
Rotas, Roads for Prayer	20

Christ Church Magazine



Please send your articles for the August magazine to us by 15th July

Cover Picture:
Flowers on the altar

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 2024

	Date	Time	Events (Zoom codes in weekly email)
Mon	1st	9.30 am 7.30 pm	Toddler group PCC Meeting in church centre
Tue	2nd	10.30 am 12.30 pm	Communion; Psalm 16: "Confusion" Pursuit Club Christ Church Academy
Wed	3rd	9.15 am 3.30 pm	Christ Church First School assembly Trekks
Thu	4th	1.10 pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	5th		
Sat	6th	8.30 am	Prayer meeting followed by breakfast
Sun	7th	9.15 am 5.00 pm	Communion; Colossians 3:5 – 4:1 "Relationships that honour Christ" Empowered session 5 at the Vicarage
Mon	8th	9.30 am	Toddler group
Tue	9th	10.30 am 12.30 pm	Communion; Psalm 25: "Shame" Pursuit Club Christ Church Academy
Wed	10th	9.15 am 3.30 pm 6.30 pm	Christ Church First School assembly Trekks Christ Church Academy celebration evening
Thu	11th	1.10 pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	12th		
Sat	13th		
Sun	14th	9.15 am 5.00 pm	Morning Prayer; Colossians 4: 2-6 "Pray and point people to Christ" Empowered session 6 at the Vicarage
Mon	15th	9.30 am	Toddler group

July 2024

	Date	Time	Events
Tue	16th	10.30 am 12.30 pm	Communion; Psalm 32: "Guilt" Pursuit Club Christ Church Academy
Wed	17th	2.00 pm 3.30 pm	Christ Church Academy leavers service (parents) Trekkers
Thu	18th		
Fri	19th	10.45 am	Christ Church Academy leavers service
Sat	20th		
Sun	21st	9.15 am 5.00 pm	Communion; Colossians 4: 7-18 "Faithful hearts and service" Empowered session 7 at the Vicarage
Mon	22nd		
Tue	23rd	10.30 am	Communion; Psalm 34: "Anxiety"
Wed	24th		
Thu	25th		
Fri	26th		
Sat	27th		
Sun	28th	9.15 am	Morning Prayer; 1 Kings 6: "Gold for ornaments"
Mon	29th		
Tue	30th	10.30 am	Communion; Psalm 38: "Depression"
Wed	31st		

Where will you put the cross?

Politics is at a low ebb. Or so it is said. For when there is a news item from the political world people seem to have clear and strong views. They don't hold back! So maybe politics isn't at a low ebb. If a weariness or impatience has set in does this dissuade or motivate us to vote at the General Election? Where will you put the cross?

As a follower of Jesus, I try to keep in mind various teachings that encourage me to vote. First, that God has not only made the world but also instituted various things for its wellbeing. We think of the model marriage of Adam and Eve who were given the mandate to be stewards of the earth. We think of the changing seasons so that we have crops. We are to recall our responsibility for seeking the welfare of the nation and also upholding righteousness, justice, and peace especially in the duty to care for the vulnerable and needy. We're to remember how God's word is perfect and revives the soul, makes us wise and joyful as we follow His divine will. We are called to submit to the governing authorities who we elect as public servants. Where we put the cross influences the process to elect leaders. Although they are imperfect, their role will either lead us in the way of God or away from it. For this reason, we're urged to pray for our leaders. Where we put our cross matters.

There is another cross that we must take care to place. It is the cross of Jesus. It is the symbol that proclaims the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and through which alone we may be forgiven and one day enjoy the reward of being in his presence. To neglect the cross is to ignore the most important decision of life. Mark records: *'Then he called the crowd to*



him along with his disciples and said: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul?"

Where will you put the cross?... (cont)

Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels." (Mark 8v34-38). He calls us to put him first and take second place. When the cross has the central place in our lives we acknowledge our need of his forgiveness, to live with him as our King, and to choose his way. It is through such cross centred lives that our homes and neighbourhoods are changed, and which will bring Christ glory.

Where will you put the cross?

Paul Kingman

Working together to create safer spaces

As a former social worker, I've seen far too many times the damage that abuse and exploitation does to those who suffer it. Often the effects endure for entire lifetimes and seriously affect a survivor's potential to foster good relationships, careers and wellbeing.

So it is heartening that the Church of England has taken massive strides forward in improving our safeguarding training and procedures in the last decade, albeit still not perfect. It's been a huge investment; not just in employing professional staff in the diocese to investigate issues and provide training, also a significant sacrifice by clergy and volunteers in every parish.

As the diocesan senior lead of safeguarding, I'm truly thankful to all who give up time and energy to participate in that training on topics that are not entirely pleasant and sometimes emotionally difficult. But it is worth it. Together we are making our churches safer places for children and vulnerable adults. People in parishes across the country make sacrifices to do the training and then do the work of safeguarding. It truly is an act of love, fulfilling Jesus' command to 'Love your neighbour'.

Let me reassure you that it pays off. I was recently sent a safeguarding

review from Lichfield Cathedral and within it were highlighted three instances where the care and training of volunteers and staff who are not safeguarding specialists showed its worth. Bishop Jan (who is Acting Dean of the cathedral) writes: “Often the most difficult thing to measure is culture. How can we be sure that the attention we give to this important area of our work is making a difference? Three anecdotes stand out to me:

“The first was at the Chorister Christmas Party where one chorister had a forfeit during one of the party games. They were asked which three people they would expect to find in the cathedral and they announced, “The Cathedral Safeguarding Officer”. An excellent answer!

“The second relates to a young girl (11) who appeared at the Christmas Light Show. Each evening over 3500 people came to the cathedral, and within all of that busyness, several volunteers identified the young girl behaving oddly and they called the nominated safeguarding officer for that evening. This situation was unusual and it became clear that we needed to respond in ways other than we might usually do, and I am pleased to report that the team adapted incredibly well and ensured the girl was safe until the Police arrived.

“Thirdly, during Evensong the Assistant Director of Music looked down from the organ loft and spotted someone they thought had been suspended from their church role. This was reported and investigated, and it would seem the individual should not be in church without an Agreement. A plan was swiftly put in place in consultation with the Diocesan Safeguarding Advisor (locally and also from the appropriate diocese) and the cathedral’s front-line team, so that if the individual re-appears we are able to offer suitable challenge.”

Together, they achieved far more than a single vicar or Parish Safeguarding Officer achieves on their own.

Neil Spiring

(Lichfield Diocese Senior Lead for Safeguarding)



James Chapter 5 verse 16

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for each other, so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.



1. The Leprosy Mission are now celebrating 150 years since their Mission work began in India. Thankfully a cure was discovered 40 years ago. However there are still lots of people who live in different places across Africa and Asia that - through extreme poverty, terrible sanitation and if catching leprosy are shunted out and excluded - when unfortunately help is very much needed. The Good news is that India's first Leprosy Nursing College opens this September.

Please pray for:

- The training of a new generation of nurses to learn about the job and to continue the dedicated, caring and compassion given to help these most marginalised people in the world.
- Lots of doctors to share their knowledge and skills about leprosy care with other regional hospitals.
- The Leprosy Mission team working in India. Please guide their wisdom to use the incoming resources wisely and to gain good relations with the government and local health teams.
- The patients who have had an amputation, will have the strength and motivation to fight through the pain, as they learn to walk again after the operation.
- The knowledge of Jesus and his payers will always be at the centre of the Leprosy Mission work across the world.



2. African Pastors Fellowship (APF) A UK charity registered in 1981 working alongside churches and community leaders in Africa.

The recently new launched mobile app - called eVitabu project - is showing that ownership of a smartphone is becoming an essential requirement for

audio and visual training, in languages spoken across Africa and being used by pastors and prominent Christian leaders.

Please pray for :

- The Teaching Ministry in Tanzania will successfully conduct training and video workshops throughout the year both locally and regionally.
- 'Let there be Light Solar' project - which offers brighter living spaces, an opportunity for studying after dark and enhances security - which hopefully will continue to make positive progress to areas further afield.
- The Saints Revival Committee in South Sudan, who's distribution of 600 bibles, will successfully be taken up and used for personal study and applied within local church schools with continuing safe classroom improvements and facilities.
- Continued progress to be made by highly qualified African pastors to help and guide more African people to be able to read and study the bible for themselves. This group was formed in 2014 and called 'Africans Teaching Africans (ATA).



3. Compassion Founded in 1952 An International Children's Charity working in 29 countries and partners with over 8,000 local churches where communities are struggling with extreme poverty.

Please pray for:

- Compassion continuing to give children and young people the opportunity to thrive and reach their full potential, mainly by helping these children to raise their aspirations beyond the local gangs, drugs and violent cultures.
- Compassion's church partner in the Dominican Republic to increase the chances of finding and investing in more tutors to help with formal education and further academic support.
- The new school that was set up in 2006, to give children who lived in remote areas in Thailand, continues working successfully and gaining

more pupils going to school in a safe environment while their parents are away working.

- The children to learn more about Jesus, how to pray and be able to gain better opportunities and to 'live their life to the full'.
- Please also pray for Ebitu living with his grandparents in Uganda. Ebitu is sponsored by a small group of people in our church. Please pray he will continue to know Jesus in his life after he leaves the programme.



4. CMS Church Mission Society is celebrating 225 years and are thanking all the supporters who have been involved in making this happen ... "Join us to lift our eyes to Jesus, to lift up those who suffer and to all who serve in the cause of mission"

Please pray for :

- The Missionaries involved in western Ethiopia working within volatile security situations and gaining access to the refugee camps and good relationships with the authorities and the church leaders.
- The newly elected first female president of Mexico and pray for more people searching for peace while the whole country is continuing to experience high levels of violence caused by rival drug cartels.
- Our CMS Link Missionaries Tim and Kate Lee who helped to set up the Jigsaw Kids Ministry in Manila in the Philippines. Tim came to Stone in May and spoke at the morning service at Christ Church and later joined Pete and Liz Mason for their annual successful Trains in the Garden Afternoon. A big thank you to everyone who made donations and all the helpers and colleagues involved with the cakes and refreshments.

The information provided and points for prayer are intended for use week by week during the month. These can be used by an individual, or a group of people meeting for prayer and fellowship.

Anne Smith

May 2024



May has brought with it a great mix of weather - plenty of both sunshine and rain and I have enjoyed my towpath walks and cycle rides. May heralds Canal Festival Season – Norbury Junction Canal Festival, Stone Floating Market, Crick Boat Festival, Etruria Boat Festival, and Trentham Floating Market. It is a joy and a great opportunity to meet with many boaters – skilled crafters, food outlets and a great variety of people who live and/or work on the waterways. I was especially pleased at Crick when a boater I had recognised from meeting him at Stone earlier in the year was overjoyed and gave me a big hug as I had remembered his name and his boat and asked after him – care and concern is much appreciated, especially by lone boaters. I also had the opportunity at Etruria to talk to Richard Parry – the CEO of Canals and Rivers Trust (CRT) and wave the flag about Waterways Chaplaincy!

I had fun talking to the Oulton Mothers Union about WWC and the canals. It was a lovely afternoon – tea and cake and a lovely group. They meet on the third Thursday of the month at 2.30pm at Oulton Church room – do join them!

I have also had the joy of doing towpath walks with potential and probationary chaplains – always interesting to see a different section of the canal network and meet more boaters in a different place. Each stretch of the canal has its own identity. One section I had not known before was down at Gailey – if you have not visited the Roundhouse Gift shop – where the A5 and the Staffs & Worcester Canal cross you have missed out. Lots of maps, books and canal art (see picture) for your delight.

I also took Margaret Lloyd, our local contact, from the **Alzheimer's Society** for a towpath walk – Margaret would



Tales from the towpath... (cont)

love to hear from you if you know anyone who might need some advice or help from their organisation concerning memory and/or dementia. The contact number is 0333 150 3456.

At the Crick Boat Festival the WWC shared a stand with the Boater's Christian Fellowship (you do not have to be a boater to belong). This organisation is a Christian presence on the waterways – people who share a love of the Inland Waterways and the Lord! They have conferences and events and a very good quarterly newsletter.

Do continue to pray for all those using and enjoying the waterways.



Many blessings – Helen

Roger and Sally

At a recent Tuesday morning Holy Communion, we had a small celebration to celebrate the 60 years that Roger Vaughn has been a priest. He has served all those years in Lichfield Diocese, but his ministry has seen him travel across the world ably supported by Sally.

Congratulations Roger and Sally!



Dear friends, it's been 8 years since we left the benefice. There hasn't been a month that has gone by where we haven't talked about you with fond memories in our hearts. One or two of you might have even made your way into my sermon illustrations.

Since leaving you we have had 2 little boys Archie (5) and Lachlan (3). We have served the Lord in a couple of different places; The UAE, Nottingham and most recently Strabane in Northern Ireland.

This summer we are on the move again! Kieran is taking up the post of Associate Minister at St John's and St Peter's in the North of Carlisle.

Kieran will be focusing a lot of his time at St John's church which is in a small village just outside the city centre. He will care for the congregation here, be very involved in the local schools and community as well as explore opportunities for planting a new congregation.

Ashley will continue to work her 2 part time jobs. She serves as international operations manager for the Radstock Network (a small mission agency) and as administrator for Eden Gate Travel (a faith based travel agency).

We are looking forward to our move to Carlisle, however we would value prayer for all the logistics of selling and buying a house and moving across the Irish Sea.

Be assured of our prayers for you, we miss you all and we trust that the Lord is at work in each of your hearts individually as well as the benefice as whole.

We would love to hear your news! If you would like to give us a little update on what's going on in your life and what God has been doing in your heart please send an email to kieran.aec@gmail.com

Grace and Truth

Kieran, Ashley and the boys

More than just a cuppa

Places of Welcome are a network of hospitality, safe spaces in the local community where people can connect, belong and participate. Registration to the national network is free, but the coffee morning or drop-in should fulfil five criteria to join. These are:

Place:

An accessible and hospitable building, open at the same time every week.

People:

Open to everyone regardless of their circumstances or situation, and usually staffed by volunteers.

Provision:

Offering free refreshments (at least a drink and a biscuit) and basic local information.

Presence:

A place where people actively listen to one another.

Participation:

Recognises that every person coming to a Place of Welcome will bring talents, experiences and skills that they might be willing to share locally.

Places of Welcome are a place where everyone can go for a friendly conversation and free refreshments, if and when they need it, and although they all meet the five expectations – they can all be very different – reflecting the communities they are in and their experiences and interests.

In their simplest form, they provide conversation and companionship over a cuppa, but did you know that some of our Places of Welcome provide other activities and support services? Here is just a flavour of what our Places of Welcome communities offer: sewing, gardening, citizens advice, councillor surgeries, knitting, yoga, exercise, arts and craft, colouring, litter picking, debt advice, counselling, foodbanks, clothing banks, haircuts, quizzes, singing and games.

More than just a cuppa...(cont)

But whether it's chatting over a cuppa and biscuit, taking part in one of the many activities or just finding a bit of support – they are always welcoming and inclusive. Please do seek out your local Place of Welcome at www.placesofwelcome.org.uk or if you would like to host a Place of Welcome contact Carrie Blount at strengtheningcommunities@lichfield.anglican.org



Places of Welcome within Lichfield Diocese are supported by Carrie and her colleague, Lesley Bovington. To find your nearest Place of Welcome and read stories from visitors and volunteers, visit <https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/places-of-welcome>



Here Be Dragons!

Churchyards and cemeteries may seem strange places to look for animals which live in streams and ponds but actually they can be very good. Frogs, toads and newts all spend much of their lives out of the water and whilst dragonflies are aquatic during their larval stage it is the adult, flying insect that we see throughout the spring and summer. Whilst dragonflies will be returning to water to lay eggs, they can be seen cruising quite far away.

Dragonfly larvae may live for several years within water but for only a few weeks as a flying adult. It's not clear why they are called dragonflies, but other old names include Devil's Riding Horse and Devil's Darning Needle! They are an ancient type of insect with giant dragonflies found in the fossil record, dating from the Carboniferous era. Some fossilized dragonfly species would have had a wingspan of about 70cm.



Here Be Dragons... (cont)

Adult dragonflies eat smaller insects such as midges and mosquitoes. They can fly fast – reaching 25 to 30 mph with a loud buzzing sound and have excellent eyesight, using their compound eyes to find and catch prey as well as spot potential mates. You may see them basking on a churchyard wall or monument in order to warm up, wait for good weather or finish digesting. Flying takes a lot of energy so they spend much of their time sitting still. If you are both patient and lucky, you may also see predators of dragonflies or the smaller damselflies such as flycatchers and frogs.

One reason that burial grounds are good for dragonflies is that they can be havens for their food – small flying insects. Those managing churchyards, chapel yards and cemeteries rarely if ever use pesticides and there are often areas where these insects can breed, such as long tussocky grass, deadwood and woodland soils with old leaves, bark and hummus.

Why not spend some time checking on monuments and see if you can spot any dragonflies. Take a photo of any you see to upload onto the iNaturalist app which will both help you identify them and also make a record so others can see what you've found.

All the best, Harriet



Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor, harriet@cfga.org.uk,

www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk - individuals and groups in the diocese receive 20% members discount on all CfGA materials. Use the discount code **diomem22**

We are praying you and family are well. Please send our love to your family. We are well and fairly adjusted to the new reality of staying longer than we had planned in this mission field. We know there is more work to be done than before. The marriage statistics and birth rates are scary and many other issues that were top burdens when we came. The crude marriage rate or marriages per a thousand persons is down to less than six per annum while the crude birth rate 22 per a thousand. If nothing changes at children and youth level, our future as nations is troubled.

God has been good to us as a family and we thank God that you have been with us all the way. The 29 May 2024 was our 25th wedding anniversary, the Lord has been so good to us. My wife has been such a blessing to me and to the children. We looked back at where we were and where we are now and praised the Lord.

In ministry here, lots of things to do. To bring some change, we have to target children and youth with God's word. On 22 June 2024, we shall be in Francistown the second city of Botswana, God willing, to train Sunday School Teachers and Youth Leaders on three programmes: Stopping Child Abuse and Stories 17 Stories for children. They will be empowered to teach the African Youth Book on: Purpose, Relationships and the Need for a Saviour. We still have thousands of Books to share through trained teachers.

On 29 June we shall do the training in Gaborone. The strategic importance of the Gaborone is that the head of Behaviour Change in the Ministry of Youth, Culture and Sports will be in attendance. While it is clear to government and church, that the moral campus is beyond the red, there is a tendency to believe that things will just change.

On another note, we are looking forward to having Jonathan Junior back after completing a Diploma in ICT in Nairobi last May. He hopes to continue with School here.

Thank you again for standing with us over the years. *J & R Beesigomwe*

Alzheimer's Poem

Do not ask me to remember

Don't try to make me understand

Let me rest and know you're with me

Kiss my cheek and hold my hand

I'm confused beyond your concept

I am sad and sick and lost

All I know is that I need you, to be with me at all cost

A poem that Dave Rowlands saw recently at the Royal Stoke University Hospital and he wanted to share it with you.

For information, advice and support go to the Alzheimer's website at www.alzheimers.org.uk



Groups and Rotas

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

REGISTERS

BAPTISM

WEDDINGS

FUNERALS

FLOWER ROTA

7th July:	
14th July:	Wedding
21st July:	Kath Thompson
28th July:	

SIDESPERSIONS

Alistair Dudd
Mandy Dudd
Jacqueline Abrahams
Pete Kelly

ROADS FOR PRAYER

7th July

Newcastle Road
Northesk Street
Radford Close
Radford Street

21st July

Trinity Drive
Airdale Grove
Airdale Road
Airdale Spinney

14th July

Station Road
The Avenue
Trent Road
Tunley Street

28th July

Cross Street
Nicholls Lane
Old Road
Old Road Close

