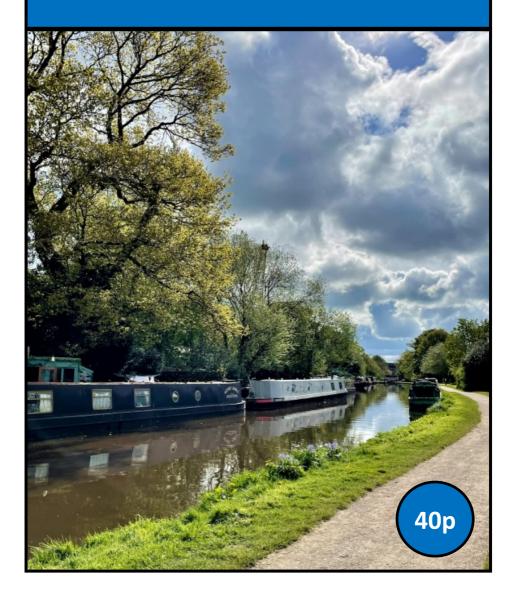
Christ Church Magazine June 2024



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 878			

 Parish Office
 Christ Church Centre, Christ Church Way, Stone, Staffs ST15 8ZB

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 811990

<u>CHRIST CHURCH CENTRE</u>				
Booking Secretary	Parish Office	811990		
CHURCH SCHOOLS				
Christ Church C.E.(Controlled) First School, Northesk Street.				
Headteacher Mrs A. Graham BA(Hons) NPQH		01785 336545		
Christ Church Academy, Old Road				
Principal: Mr C. Wright	01785 334900			

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Christ Church Magazine

A.

Christ Church on the Internet			
Parish website	www.christchurchstone.org		
Parish office email	office@christchurchstone.org		
Magazine contributions	magazine@christchurchstone.org		

June 2024

	Date	Time	Events (Zoom codes in weekly email)
Sat	1st	8.30 am	Prayer meeting followed by breakfast
Sun	2nd	9.15 am	Communion; Romans 8: 18-27 "Resurrection hope"
Mon	3rd	9.30 am	Toddler group
Tue	4th	10.30 am 12.30 pm 7.30 pm	Communion; Acts 7: 44-53 "The Righteous One" Pursuit Club Christ Church Academy Hope Explored session 1 at the Vicarage
Wed	5th	9.00 am 3.30 pm	Christ Church First School assembly Trekkers
Thu	6th	1.10 pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	7th		
Sat	8th		
Sun	9th	9.15 am	Morning Prayer; Romans 8: 28–39 "Resurrection glory"
Mon	10th	9.30 am	Toddler group
Tue	11th	10.30 am 12.30 pm 2.00 pm 7.30 pm	Communion; Acts 13: 26-41 "The Son of God" Pursuit Club Christ Church Academy Autumn House service Hope Explored session 2 at the Vicarage
Wed	12th	9.00 am 2.00 pm 3.30 pm	Christ Church First School assembly Oulton Abbey Care Home service Trekkers
Thu	13th	11.00 am 1.10 pm	St. Mary's Care Home service Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	14th		
Sat	15th		

June 2024

	Date	Time	Events
Sun	16th	9.15 am	Communion; Colossians 2: 6-23 "Qualified in Christ"
Mon	17th	9.30 am	Toddler group
Tue	18th	10.30 am 12.30 pm 7.30 pm	Communion; Psalm 4: "Anger" Pursuit Club Christ Church Academy Hope Explored session 3 at the Vicarage
Wed	19th	9.00 am 3.30 pm	Christ Church First School assembly Trekkers
Thu	20th	1.10 pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	21st		
Sat	22nd		
Sun	23rd	9.15 am	All Age; Colossians 3: 1-4 "Aim high"
Mon	24th	9.30 am 7.30 pm	Toddler group Archdeacon's visitation service
Tue	25th	10.30 am 12.30 pm	Communion; Psalm 14: "Godlessness" Pursuit Club Christ Church Academy
Wed	26th	9.00 am 3.30 pm	Christ Church First School assembly Trekkers
Thu	27th	1.10 pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	28th		
Sat	29th		
Sun	30th	9.15 am	Morning Prayer; Colossians 3: 5-14 "Clothed in Christ"

Father's Day can lead to varying reactions.

Personally, I miss my dad. Memories are triggered when I wear an ill-fitting jumper, cut the grass, have pancakes on Shrove Tuesday (one of a small handful of things he enjoyed cooking), carving the Sunday roast joint, or if I play tennis (a common interest that we had). He died in 2010, but the memories are strong.

Some <u>will not</u> miss their dads. Their memories are caught up in a web of conflicting feelings, poor treatment, emotional struggles and maybe even abandonment. Such thoughts are a heavy load to bear and have left their scars.

What comes to mind when we think about God as Father shows a lot about who we are. Our background may make it harder for us to see who God is for us. 'Father's Day' may either stoke up old grief or alternatively elicit painful memories. What should we do? We are to return to what has been revealed in the Holy Bible about our Father in heaven. For this is the only reliable source of information about the true nature of God as Father.

In the Old Testament we encounter the LORD God who is mighty in triumph but also in mercy. Here we find a wonderful description (and hence this article): *"Father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling"* (Psalm 68v5). This tells us about God's compassionate concern and care for the weak and needy. God becomes what His people need – their everything!

The heavenly Father has made an unbreakable commitment to his people.



He has promised: '*Never will I leave you. Never will I forsake you*' (Joshua 1v5 and quoted in Hebrews 13v5). The words originally spoken to Joshua are carried over into the New Testament as the basis for being content and sure of God's help. . In Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, we are reassured when anxious about our needs: 'Your Father knows what you need even before you ask him' (Matthew 6v8). So, we don't need to try and twist his arm into acting, but simply ask in prayer. Those who are children of God have become so through faith in Jesus Christ: 'all who have received and believed in Jesus' name have been given the right to become children of God' (John 1v12).

I hope these words of scripture have spoken into your life. The gospel proclaims that the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ can also be your Father. At the heart of being a Christian is to know God as our Father – he provides for us in this life and promises an inheritance of eternal life. Through his Son Jesus Christ we can be forgiven, reconciled to the Father and experience the love of God in our lives by the Holy Spirit with a guaranteed future. Now that is good news!

Paul Kingman

The Romans Course by Andrew Ollerton

I have always been fascinated with Roman history, studying it at school and having had the opportunity to travel to Rome for a holiday. During one Church Service Paul showed us a little clip of the ten-week Bible study course, and I decided to go along and find out more.

It was a ten-week course studying Paul's Letter to the Romans. The course was led by Andrew Ollerton and was set in the stunning backdrop of Rome of Early Christians living The course included videos, bible readings, group discussions and prayer time as well as coffee and biscuits. I have always found Romans tricky to understand but each week we studied different chapters and Andrew Ollerton helped us to unpick the message in each letter.

Week 1 included a quiz, ashamed to say I didn't know many answers but over the weeks Paul's letter to the Romans began to make sense and I was keen to attend the following week. Andrew Ollerton explained that the Letter to the Romans is like climbing a mountain "Romans may be the Mount of Everest of the Bible but trust me, the view will be worth it." Over the weeks we covered Gospel, Sin, Salvation, Peace, Freedom, Hope, Mystery, Devotion, Community and finally Mission. The session on Freedom "How can we avoid negative cycles?" gave me food for thought. I



sometimes feel I am not good enough for God and keep sinning however after reading Romans 6.6 "As Jesus died for our sin, so we have died with him 'our old self was crucified with (Christ).....' What an amazing thing Jesus did for us. I will ask Jesus to walk with me daily and not give into temptation.

Session 4 Peace entitled "How can we find rest in a stressful world?" really hit home to me. Stress is everywhere in schools, jobs, home and in our daily lives but reading Romans 5. 3-4 "Not only that, but rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character and character produces hope" So therefore I will try remembering and pray to God's love during tough times.

The final session was entitled "How can we be ambitious with the gospel?" I have always gone to Church and people know I am a Christian, but I find it tricky starting up sharing my faith with others. So, in the final session Andrew Ollerton encouraged us to read Paul's closing prayer in Romans 16.25-27 Verse 26 stood out to me "Now however, that truth has been brought out into the open through the writings of the prophets; and by the command of the eternal God, it is made known to all nations, so that all may believe and obey." So therefore I will read the bible more and become more confident to share it with others.

Thank you to Paul for organizing this course and for everyone making me feel so welcome. I thoroughly enjoyed the course and I encourage you all to read the Letter to the Romans.

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Michelle Gliddon

Colossians 4 v 2

Devote yourself to prayer, being watchful and thankful

🕡 1. Our Mission Partners: Feba - Life Giving media

Established in 1959 in the UK as the Far Eastern Broadcasting Associate, to provide a creative use of radio to inspire people to follow Jesus Christ across Africa, Asia and the Middle East and are now working regularly within Ukraine.

Please pray for :

- Greater protection over our partners in these uncertain times of increased persecution, danger and war and particularly those who are military chaplains or who have been called up to fight.
- Feba's continuing work where radio can reach people struck by war, poverty, suffering and fear - and are now starting to move further into other countries like Iraq, Kazakhstan and North Korea.
- More students to become godly influences, to start to bring positive changes in the heart and minds of their friends and associates.

2. Our Mission Partners: Tearfund who currently works in around 50 countries, focusing on poverty and providing disaster relief for disadvantaged communities.

Please pray for:

- The years of conflict that have taken place in Yemen please pray for the support groups helping to equip communities who have suffered badly and are still dealing with trauma. Also pray for an unwavering hope and desire for positive change.
- Further support in Cambodia to build more churches to spread the word and bring people closer to God.

¹⁰ Please pray for...

- In South Sudan, pray for the work taking place through local churches to tackle the root causes of child marriage, sexual and gender-based violence.
- The Humanitarian workers who face extraordinary challengers in their work. Pray to help them find the extra strength, courage and motivation that's needed to keep them going.
- Melanie, Jamie, Val and all of Tearfund's speakers who are located across the UK, and are working within their local churches to inform and inspire congregations to gain further support.

3. Our Mission Partners: Barnabas Aid aims to support Christian communities, churches and individuals across the world who face persecution and discrimination because of their faith.

Please pray for:

- The Authorities to issue permits for church buildings and the churches which had been ordered to close - will be reopened.
- The protection of people who could experience possible violence and imprisonment because of their faith.
- Other events that are taking place catastrophes, natural disasters, wars - please pray for strength and comfort for the bereaved, the widows and the orphans.
- Much needed rain to return, to enable the crops to grow, which will also help those hungry in their time of need.
- In China to give wisdom and strength to church leaders on how to respond to new regulations. Pray that the authorities will see Christians as a force for good and harmony within the local societies.

4. Our Mission Partners: MAF - Mission Aviation Fellowship, which is the world's largest humanitarian air operator, serving isolated people in 24 countries.

Please pray for :

- Their continuation and safety of their small planes to take off and land in remote areas giving the needed assistance for emergencies, development aid, education and church purposes.
- Further continuing of pilot and engineer training and hopefully attracting new people who would have a passion to join the MAF, happy to work overseas and undertake further bible studies.
- The organisers being aware of the children who will need to receive the essential vaccinations before growing into adults.
- The increasing use of solar power in all MAF programmes.
- Much needed clean, safe water to become even more available for more people worldwide.

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

Tales from the Towpath (9)

April 2024

Isn't Spring just wonderful? The blossom on the trees, the leaves coming out, more sunshine and blue skies and wildlife of course – all beautiful and a reminder of God's amazing creation. A particular feature along the Canal just near where I live is our local pair of (we think) Cayuga Ducks. Beautiful,

unusual ducks and a real community interest. They are owned by a local liveaboard boater but freely roam the canal. Sadly, the local male swan does not like them invading his territory (even though his nest



Tales from the Towpath (9)... (cont)



is some way off) and continually harasses the ducks. The female duck has disappeared at the moment and our whole community are hoping that she is

hiding in a nest somewhere – fingers crossed for a good outcome. We hope that both ducklings and cygnets are seen in a few weeks time.

I have enjoyed doing towpath walks with 3 different prospective chaplains on different stretches of the canal network. On talking to them about locks and the canal system – it got me wondering...

Did you Know?

- There are 2,700 miles of navigable canals and rivers connected on the system in the UK.
- There are 1,800 locks on the canal network.
- The deepest lock in the UK is Tuel Lane Lock on the Rochdale Canal with a fall of 19 feet 8.5 inches.
- The 93 miles of our Trent and Mersey Canal (that runs through Stone) has 73 locks and 4 tunnels. Harecastle Tunnel is 1.6 miles long and we have the Anderton Boat lift at Northwich linking the Trent & Mersey Canal to the River Weaver. Another feature is Heartbreak Hill - the name for the 31 locks between Kidsgrove and Middlewich Junction.

We have just over 100 Waterways Chaplains nationally at present – there are 3 chaplains and 4 probationary chaplains in our Staffordshire Hub. Helping boaters, especially lone boaters, through the locks is a good way to talk to people and practically help. I always take my windlass with me, ready to spot someone in need. Conversations can be many and varied as we do a task together. Also one finds people at locks sitting on benches watching the boaters so they will often chat as well. Just this week I was blessed when one towpath user wanted to talk about prayer and another boater was pleased, after a discussion about faith, to be offered a New Testament to help them in their discipleship journey.

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

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I am pleased to report that the **SPaRC Team** is gradually moving towards full strength with the recent appointment of an additional full time Chaplain. This reflects the importance placed by the Trust on the contribution made by the Chaplaincy Department to the well being of both patients and staff. More Volunteers are, of course, always needed and welcomed.

As far as my own training for supporting patients receiving Palliative Care, and their families, is concerned I will soon be spending some time working, under supervision, in the Oncology Department. This is somewhere I have not been sent before and I anticipate that this will be both challenging and rewarding in equal measure.

Recently when I was talking with an astute 93 year old patient I was most impressed when they said...

"Of course the NHS is a victim of its own success..." and I do very much agree with that insight. Indeed all staff go above and beyond to facilitate the well being and recovery of the patients in their care. It's no wonder our hospitals are full when we have an ageing population!

Hospital Notes 50

"Training and Appreciation"

I am continuing my training to be able to provide Palliative support to patients and their families working in the *Clinical Haematology Day Unit* at RSUH. The majority of patients are receiving Chemotherapy or treatment for Haemophilia. As I anticipated it is very different to working on other wards. I think this is because being a day unit it is much more open plan and is divided up into 'pods' with a small number of patients in each pod. The staff members are all welcoming and value the work of SPaRC Team.

I tend to see fewer patients here spending more time with each person; some are anxious especially if it is their first treatment, others are used to ongoing long term visits and many welcome the opportunity to be distracted by talking with a non clinical but understanding visitor who has come to offer support.

After my time on the ward I meet with an employed Chaplain to carry out a 'verbatim'. This is a 'replay' of a conversation I have had to think over how it went, what was good and what could have been different or better with a view to improving the support we offer to make it the best that we can. This certainly sharpens my focus when engaging in conversation with patients!

On May 8th I attended a service at Stoke Minster for *'International Nurses Day'*. This was to celebrate and give thanks for the work of nurses through the *'International Nurses Council'* which represents 28 million nurses from 130 *'National Nursing Associations'* worldwide. The theme of the Council in 2024 is *'Our nurses, our future and the economic power of care'* and recognises the contribution of nurses to policy, education and creating healthy people, societies and economies. The date is chosen to be close to the birthday of Florence Nightingale (12th May 1820). The service included singing from 3 choirs – 'UHNM Choir', 'Staffordshire Voices Combined Choir' and 'The Fijian Choir'. Prayers were led by people of different faiths.

The address was given by Lloyd Cooke, whom I have known for many years, who is CEO of Saltbox and Chair of Stoke Healthwatch. His theme was **"You are appreciated, thank you"** and included some very personal comments about his own life.

It was a memorable occasion which concluded 'with the blessing of hands' that all might find joy and blessing in their calling and profession as they offer compassionate help, encouragement and support to everyone in their care.

Finally, I was privileged to receive a replica *George Cross* from the hospital recently. HM Queen Elizabeth II awarded this honour to all who worked in the NHS during the pandemic and The Trust has provided pin badges to mark this award.

Dave Rowlands

Church at Home

We are truly blessed at Christ Church as each week the varied ministries of the church reach out and have a real impact on people's lives in the parish through our regular Sunday and Tuesday Services, Home Groups, Schools work, Hospital and Waterways Chaplaincies as well as Mums and Toddlers, but did you know that each month a small group of us have the privilege of taking Church out to the residents of three Care Homes? These are Autumn House, Oulton Abbey and St. Mary's.

Once a month we gather at each home to sing God's praises (with help from Rev. Paul's Boom Box!), pray for the needs of the residents, read God's Word and share the Good News of hope and new life found only in Jesus.

We call this ministry "Church at Home" and over the last 2 years we have seen real interest and encouraging increase in attendance at each of the services we conduct. We regularly see more than 20 residents plus carers at each of our services!

Paul, Ruth from Oulton and myself would very much appreciate your prayers as we seek to carry out this ministry. Please pray that Jesus would be glorified in all that we do, that those who already know and trust Christ would be encouraged and others including staff would come to faith.

Gary Williams

Midlands Men's Convention

'How we treat each other'- that was at the heart of the Midland Men's Convention we attended last week in Birmingham. The focus was on communication- using words wisely to build each other up.

On arrival there was a warm greeting from the church staging the convention, and a whopping continental breakfast with coffee! The ice was broken and we began to mingle with each other, sharing thoughts about what we expected the day to be like... It began with worship, and if you can imagine a hall full of men worshipping and singing praises to God in full voice - it was a moving event. The programme included sessions and workshops. Choices included -talking about anger, talking about what matters, and talking with your wife. I sensibly chose the latter! There were opportunities to browse the bookstore and plenty of discussion in the work groups. We had fine weather so we were able to sit outside during lunch, relax and chat. After the final session prayers and reflection brought an end to an eventful day. Looking forward to next year's conference and hoping to take a few more men with us! 'Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen' Ephesians 4 v 29

Steve Garrington-Miller

The Rev Brian Reeve

Margaret and I arrived in Stone with our two children in the summer of 1978. We had been living in Scotland and while waiting for our house to be built in Oulton Rd we lived in a company house in Hanford. Both of our children joined schools in Stone and Margaret got a job at Alleynes High School so we immediately looked for a church to attend. I parked up outside Christ Church one day and as we looked at the notice board the young vicar came up to us and engaged in conversation (well he was my age). He was able to explain the form of the service and told us that they had a vibrant and warm congregation.

As a direct result of that conversation we became members of Christ Church and both took an active part in the life of the Church community.

Today 46 years later those who know us will know how supportive and vital that family has been to us.

All of this was down to that first conversation with Brian all those years ago. God bless you Brian and may you Rest in Peace.

Margaret and Barry Hutchinson

Open The Book!

For some years now a small group of us have visited the First Schools in Northesk Street and Oulton every week to act out well-known episodes from the Bible. These are provided, along with helpful hints on staging etc, by the Bible Society.

The format never varies. Paul or Peter gives a short introduction and guides our audience toward their commitment to the drama; sometimes individual children will volunteer to be disciples, soldiers, general crowd, sometimes there will be mass exclamations and exhortations cued by placards (Oh No!, Crucify Him, Baa,) and then we go straight in to the story told by a narrator.

Finally Paul or Peter sums up the message and ends with a short prayer 'and if you want to make it your prayer please join in the Amen'.

In the vestry there is a large suitcase which contains simple tunics and cloaks, an angel robe with wings, a black academic gown for a teacher of the law, several items of tinfoil-covered cardboard to represent crowns, swords, helmets, a diadem for a pharaoh etc. With these we can create scenes ranging from ancient Egypt to the Sea of Galilee though occasionally we have been challenged almost beyond our ingenuity, for instance how to get the paralysed man down through a roof (we used a puppet in the end).

There have been some memorable moments over the years. Herod, played by the vicar, twitching most evilly as he interviews the Magi, wearing a pair of black leather gloves. Chris Nix as Goliath, so terrifying that one or two reception class children had to be comforted by their teacher, and most recently the lost sheep, played by Estella's glove puppet llama, whose bearer had discovered how to make it work and stole the show as he carried it to the front.

Carrying out this task for God takes an hour and a half on a Monday afternoon and half an hour on a Wednesday morning. And there is a simple joy in being recognised in the street or outside the chippy when a child turns to his parent and happily relates an episode. However we are a bit short-staffed at present and could do with a couple more actors. It's such a worthwhile endeavour. Maybe you would consider joining the group?

Monica Darlington

Christ Church Academy Update

Pupils in Year 5 at Christ Church Academy have been learning about life cycles in Science this term. As part of their work, they studied the development and metamorphosis of butterflies. What better way to understand the amazing transformation of these creatures than raising some of their own! After weeks of patient waiting, the children observed how they formed chrysalises and then emerged as butterflies. The whole year group gathered in the school garden to release them to cheers,



applause and whispered 'wow's.

Sometimes we compartmentalise school subjects into neat, separate boxes. But in moments of wonder and awe such as this, it becomes clear that education is about nurturing the whole person. It is about not just academic development, but seizing opportunities for spiritual growth, strengthening community bonds and teaching all children to find the joy in the things that surround them.

Correction

From the article... Transform Trade—The Big Brew in the May magazine.

There is a charge for room hire at Oulton Village Hall, including charity events. Sheila

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) was held on Sunday 22nd April at 4pm.We had 28 attendees who enjoyed refreshments prior to the start of the meeting. Copies of last year's APCM, this year's financial report and the Annual Reports book were circulated at the meeting. Copies of these documents can be obtained from the Church office.

- Mrs Sanders, the PCC secretary, reported on the events and decisions made during the past year.
- Mr Kelly, Treasurer, gave a detailed financial report together with objectives for 2024.
- The Church Wardens reported on the work they have carried out over the last year maintaining and ensuring the smoothing running of the church.
- Rev Kingman presented his report. He also thanked the PCC and everyone involved in the running of the church.
- Two PCC members were re-elected, and two new members joined the PCC.
- Three new people joined our dedicated Welcome Team.
- Mr Stone agreed to continue as our Safeguarding Officer and Mr Mason continues as our Fire Safety Officer.

The APCM is not the most popular event in the Church calendar, but it is an essential requirement that helps us to reflect on what we do and look ahead.

Look out for next year's APCM it is a great way to find out more about what is going at church in a friendly and welcoming atmosphere.

The new PCC were commissioned on Sunday 28th April.



20	Groups and F	Rotas			
Deanery Synod Reps	Helen Bowes, Dave Rowlands				
P.C.C. Members	Jacqueline Abrahams, Lynne Bakker-Collier,				
	Maxine Garrington-Miller, Shirley Hallam,				
	• •	George Holden, Pete Kelly,			
	, ,	gh Sanders, Andy Stone,			
Secretary	Shelagh Sanders	y Williams, Estella Woodhead			
Treasurer	Pete Kelly				
Envelopes, Gift Aid	Steve Taylor				
	REGISTERS				
BAPTISM					
WEDDINGS					
FUNERALS					
8th May	Brian Reeve	Aged 87			
FLC	OWER ROTA	SIDESPERSONS			
2nd June:		Dave Rowlands			
9th June:		Jeanette Rowlands			
	dra Morray	Marilyn Overall			
23rd June:		Pam Roberts			
30th June: Jear	ette Rowlands	Jacqueline Abrahams			
ROADS FOR PRAYER					
2nd June	9th June	16th June			
Kent Grove	Mount Road	Stonefield Square			
Meaford Avenue	Mount Street	Victor Street			
Mount Avenue	Old Road	Victoria Street			
Mount Crescent	Stonefield Court	Whitebridge Lane			
23rd June	30th June	Map showing the extent of Storie			
Alma Street	King's Avenue	A FA			
Bromfield Court	Longton Road	and the second s			

Granville Terrace Dominic Court

Margaret Street Newcastle Street