

Christ Church Magazine

October 2025



PARISH DIRECTORY

SUNDAY SERVICES

Details of our services are given on page 5/6.

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
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Christ Church Academy, Old Road

Principal: Mrs Tara Thorn	01785 334900
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Please send your articles for the November magazine to us by the 15th October

Cover Picture:
Waterlilies—
photo by Helen

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

From the Editor

Greetings!

Summer seems to have come to an end as I write this and there is a distinct Autumnal feel. Also we are in the season of Harvest events in our churches, including the Quiz evening (details on page 17) —do come it's great fun! There is also information about a very interesting evening exploring 'Jesus the Evidence' on page 16. Both events are ones to invite your friends to.

There is an important article from Lichfield Diocese about finance on page 20/21 and this edition has the usual articles from regular contributors. We always need more articles so please send them in!

Photos for our front page would be welcome to—there are lots of good photographers in our congregation so please send them to me.

We have wonderful photos of Gary's Licencing as a Reader on page 14/15—enjoy!

Helen.

September 15th 2025

From the Vicarage.....

The unpredictable, and the reliable

We live in a world that lurches from one crisis to another. But some things are as regular as clockwork or else we'd not survive.

If you talk with a farmer, you will hear quickly what is happening on the ground. Food production has always been a key part of life for us all, but for those at the cutting edge the changing seasons play havoc with plans. This year stored grass for feed later in the year had to be used during the extremely hot weather. Further feed must be sought for the months to come. This will impact food prices, due to increased production costs. Yet on the other hand we have all seen bumper fruit harvests: apples and plums have been in abundance!

What gives regularity to the world? It is the very promise of God: *“While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, Cold and heat, Winter and summer, And day and night Shall not cease”* (Genesis 8v22). All the components that we need to produce food are provided by the gracious hand of God. The sowing of seeds leads to the miraculous growth of a crop that can be harvested. The cold earth and warmth of the sun lead to hormonal changes that lead to germination and eventually we see the process of ripening. The alternation of day and night provide energy for plants and life following a regular daily cycle as the earth spins on its axis around the sun giving us our twenty-four hour days and twelve months of the year. What an amazing world!

We have much to be grateful for as October progresses and we reflect on God’s provision. So, we say thanks to the generous God for the harvest we enjoy! We are also to reflect God’s character in our generosity towards others. That’s why we share with others and contribute to our local food bank but also we contribute through “Food.gives” (a dry goods relief project managed through the Barnabas Fund) which provides relief for those facing extreme hardship overseas.

Our harvest services are over. But our thanks to God is daily. For in amongst what seems unpredictable we hang on to what is reliable. The promises of God.

Paul Kingman
October 2025



October 2025

	Date	Time	Events (Zoom codes in weekly email)
Wed	1st	9.00 am 3.30 pm	Christ Church First School assembly Trekks
Thu	2nd	1.10 pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	3rd		
Sat	4th	8.30 am	Prayer meeting followed by breakfast
Sun	5th	9.15 am 5.00 pm	Communion; Genesis 29: 1-30 "Tying the knot" Bible Study: Salvation belongs to the Lord (4/6)
Mon	6th	9.30 am	Toddler group
Tue	7th	10.30 am 12.30 pm	Communion; Luke 10: 25-37 "The Good Samaritan" Pursuit Club Christ Church Academy
Wed	8th	9.00 am 3.30 pm	Christ Church First School assembly Trekks
Thu	9th	1.10 pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	10th		
Sat	11th		
Sun	12th	9.15 am 5.00 pm	Morning Prayer; Acts 16: 11-15 "A business woman turns to Christ" Bible Study: Salvation belongs to the Lord (5/6)
Mon	13th	9.30 am	Toddler group
Tue	14th	10.30 am 12.30 pm 2.00 pm	Communion; Luke 12: 13-21 "The rich fool" Pursuit Club Christ Church Academy Autumn House - Church at Home service
Wed	15th	9.00 am 2.00 pm 3.30 pm	Christ Church First School assembly Oulton Abbey - Church at Home service Trekks

October 2025

	Date	Time	Events
Thu	16th	11.00 am 1.10 pm	St. Mary's - Church at Home service Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	17th		
Sat	18th		
Sun	19th	9.15 am 5.00 pm	Communion; Genesis 31: 1-55 "Homeward bound" Bible Study: Salvation belongs to the Lord (6/6)
Mon	20th	9.30 am	Toddler group
Tue	21st	10.30 am 12.30 pm	Communion; Luke 13: 18-19 "The mustard seed" Pursuit Club Christ Church Academy
Wed	22nd	9.00 am 3.30 pm	Christ Church First School assembly Trekks
Thu	23rd	1.10 pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	24th		
Sat	25th		
Sun	26th	9.15 am 4.00 pm	Communion; Genesis 32: 22-32 "Wrestling with God" Jesus the Evidence
Mon	27th	9.30 am	Toddler group
Tue	28th	10.30 am 12.30 pm	Communion; Luke 14: 15-24 "Great banquet" Pursuit Club Christ Church Academy
Wed	29th	9.00 am 3.30 pm	Christ Church First School assembly Trekks
Thu	30th	1.10 pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	31st		

Please pray for.....

WEEK ONE -

Midlands Gospel Partnership (MGP)

MGP exists to see healthy local churches in every community by training in biblical ministry and co-operating in evangelism

PRAYER POINTS

Thank God for the Midlands Gospel Partnership and their mission to help men and women understand and teach the bible

Pray for the Midland's men and women's conventions and those who will be attending from our own congregation

Pray for all who are attending the youth and children's training as they seek to help churches reach new generations for Christ

Pray for Paul Mallard who is the director for the west midlands and the Midland Ministry Training Course, [course](#) leader

Pray for all the churches who are being supported by MGP



WEEK TWO - SIMEONS TRUST

A church of England patronage trust, founded in 1836. The trust adheres to an evangelical tradition and uses online and traditional teaching methods to train ministers and bible teachers. Christ church was built with financial help from Simeons trust

PRAYER POINTS

Pray for Reverent Guy Donegan Cross, who is the chair of Simeons trust and a trustee for the midlands

Pray for the enabling of Christs mission through a flourishing church community to be the main concern in every community.

Pray that appointments may be seen as a spiritual process, needing to be led by God in every aspect

Pray as they offer support and guidance to churches seeking a new minister or church worker, and that successful applicants may be energised by a passion to communicate the good news of Jesus.



WEEK THREE - ST LUKES FOR CLERGY WELL-BEING

St Lukes is a charity, established in 1892 that helps and supports clergy in their ministry by improving the wellbeing of them and their families

PRAYER POINTS

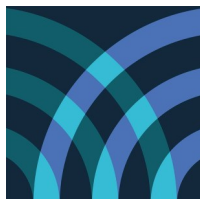
Pray for clergy and their families who are seeking psychological and further help that they will find the support they need

Pray for all the volunteers who give their time to assist St Lukes

Pray for courage for clergy who are suffering with their mental health but are finding it difficult to speak to anyone

Thank God for St Lukes, pray that they may continue to give help where it is needed with the finances and resources that they need.

**St Luke's for
Clergy Wellbeing**



WEEK FOUR -

Paul and Elizabeth Makau in Kenya

The Makau family have moved to Kenya as part of the African Inland Mission (AIM), teaching at the African International University in Nairobi

PRAYER POINTS

Pray for Paul and Elizabeth who are teaching mission courses at Africa International University (AIU) in Nairobi and mobilising local church leaders to serve as missionaries among unreached people groups.

Pray for local church leaders who are also joining them to assess how they can plant churches in surrounding villages.

Pray for different teams who will be constructing a church building for the Lependera church and drilling a bore hole for the local community. Please pray for safety, good co-ordination, protection from the evil one, and much fruit from this trip.

Pray for the use and funding of the audio bibles that enables people to hear the bible in their own language



**AFRICA
INLAND MISSION**

Mission Matters

Last month we had a lovely visit from Paul and Elizabeth Makau for one of our morning services, they brought us lots of encouraging news of the work they are involved with as well as some entertaining videos especially of a new sizeable congregation that meets under a large tree near their village as they have no permanent meeting place yet, the joy of faith expressed in their infectious singing was so evident to all.

Paul also spoke about the need to continue to reach people groups who have never heard the Christian message or even the name of Jesus. One of the tools they are finding to be very effective are digital bibles, about the size of a small mobile phone or iPod with the bible recorded in their own language or dialect, this is particularly useful as many people are unable to read, these devices can be used by individuals or groups and are charged by solar power and don't rely on the internet or phone signals which can be unreliable.

Paul and Elizabeth are one of our supported mission partners and appear in our prayer diary for this month.

Mandy & Alistair Dudd



As Harvest approaches and we celebrate all the wonderful varieties of food we have access to on a daily basis, the **Food.Gives** collection enables us to share our abundance with our Christian brothers and sisters in dire need. Items for the boxes, which are sent to a distribution centre in Swindon to be repackaged ready for shipment overseas are :- (all dried and suitable for room temperature storage) Chick peas, Lentils, Rice, Salt, Sugar, Pulses (dried beans, dried peas, dried broad beans). All in packets please rather than tubs or tins and as long a 'Use by' date as possible. We'll miss Sheila Hawley's input this year but I'm hoping to do her proud by sending even more boxes this time!! There will be a table set up in the Foyer in due course to receive your items. If you have items and can't get to church or wish to donate to the collection let me know via the office. Thank you.

Phil Tunstall.

For more information and to see videos of the work or to donate:-



www.food.gives

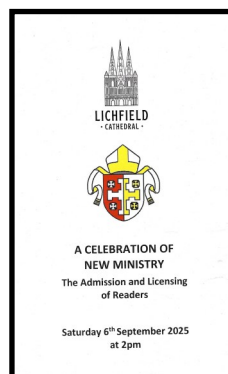
Gary—Licensing as a Reader

Didn't we have a luvrly day?

God sent us a beautiful day on 6 September; and 27 of the congregation took their seats on the coach to go to Lichfield for Gary's licensing as a reader across Christ Church, Oulton and Moddershall. We arrived in good time to take in the splendour of the Cathedral. The service was very emotional but also exciting as we officially welcomed (and pledged our support for) the new member to the ministry team in our three churches and beyond.

We much appreciate Gary, the work he has done to get to this place; and to Liz alongside him with love and support.

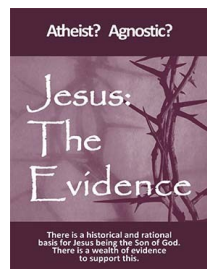
Please continue to pray for Gary as he continues his formal studies, and as he lives a life of study and growth living in the knowledge and love of Jesus. *(Article by Shirley)*





If Jesus was just a religious teacher, you can safely ignore Christianity – and get on with living your earthly life. But if there's any chance, He really was the Son of God, that changes things, doesn't it?

Perhaps the first thing to do is see if there is sound evidence for Jesus.



A Wealth of Historical and Rational Evidence

'Jesus: The Evidence' exists to present a rational and historical case for the life, death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth. It is designed for those who are sceptical of religious claims, curious about Jesus or simply searching for truth in an age of doubt. Whether you're an agnostic, atheist or believer seeking a firmer foundation for your faith, this project is built to engage you respectfully and thoughtfully.

Rather than assuming faith, *Jesus the Evidence* begins with the question: *Did Jesus really live, die, and rise from the dead?* Using ancient sources, historical records, and reasoned logic, the project invites readers and listeners to explore the evidence and draw their own conclusions.

4.00 to 5.45 p.m. on Sunday 26th October 2026

The event will start at 4.00 p.m. sharp, and we will be having two live presentations to discover what evidence is available for us to scrutinise. We will have a short break for refreshments halfway through. The speaker will provide a free booklet with material that is in greater detail for those attending to take away. Donations of any size towards the speaker's expenses will be gratefully received.

Our speaker, Derek McIntyre, was a former agnostic, but felt compelled to explore whether there was any credible evidence for the central claims of Christianity. This presentation grew out of what he discovered.

Paul Kingman

**Friday
10th October 2025
7.00pm
Christ Church Centre**



It's harvest time and that means the big quiz. The last two years we have very much enjoyed the Tearfund quiz nights. Here we join in with churches all around the country to enjoy a social quiz evening and raise money for Tearfund. Tearfund set the majority of the questions, although John and Helen always provide an interesting bonus round!!!

Come and join us—there are prizes!!

Thousands of people needlessly suffer and die every day because of poverty. But that's not God's plan for the world. We believe that we can all play a part in ending extreme poverty and injustice by reaching out to people in need.

For more than 50 years, Tearfund has partnered with local churches and organisations around the world, equipping people to lift themselves out of poverty and fulfil their God-given potential.

We need some helpers on the night for the usual duties of Tea and coffee provision, washing up, clearing up etc. Please let me know if you can help. Thank you.

Helen

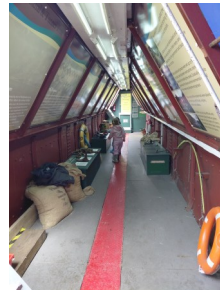
Transforming Communities one quiz at a time:

August/September 2025

Hello,



The Black Country Boating Festival on September 14th was the highlight of this month for us on the Waterways. A great event featuring historic boats, many stalls, live music and lots to eat. Even the rain did not deter us!



Meanwhile back in Stone the water levels are still very low on the Trent & Mersey canal, meaning that continuous cruisers are staying put and only hire boats are moving around. You will all have noticed, I am sure, that there is a distinct lack of boats coming through the locks here in Stone. I am enjoying getting to know

some of the boaters 'stuck' in Stone and helping as appropriate.

I am off to a Seniors gathering in Sheffield at the end of September—please pray for Waterways Chaplaincy as the organisation is having to look for a new funding source as the Church Army (who are also struggling to make ends meet) no longer feel they can support us. If you would like to make a donation towards this important work then please go to [www://waterwayschaplaincy.org.uk](http://www.waterwayschaplaincy.org.uk) to make a one off or a regular donation.

It is now over two years since I started this ministry and it is a real blessing and privilege. Please pray for all the boaters and everyone along the towpath in our lovely town of Stone and the village of Barlaston. 'Do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with your God' – Micah 6:8

God bless, Helen 15/9/25



'Advent Windows' will soon be here!!!!

This years theme is the Advent Alphabet. Watch out for more details in the next edition!



‘Gratitude, Opportunity and Hope

If money talks, let’s listen together to what it’s saying to Lichfield Diocese

Ever noticed? People who are at ease about big money talk about ‘a sum north of ...’. Although confusingly mixing compass and currency, it reveals a deep truth: a large sum of money might bring a polar chill: the burden of choices and the risk of temptations and dissension. It needs skilled handling to bring blessing.

The additional £400 million extra over three years across 42 dioceses being released from the Church of England’s historic assets, an amount of arctic proportions according to the popular yardstick, could, rather should, bless us. A good first response might be gratitude, caution and reaching for a calculator. Caution is valuable because it stops us from falling into two traps: imagining where we would spend the money for our own benefit rather than for the Kingdom, and, worse, imagining where we would spend the same sum twice. Thankfully, the calculations are being done by Lichfield Diocese’s very skilled finance team.

Gratitude to God is the gateway to asking God what divine and loving purpose it is there to fulfil, because money calls us into a future plan. This money also comes with wonderful timing. The ten goals of Seeking the Kingdom can guide our efforts, there is the opportunity to use the extra money to fund new activities, especially in parishes where there are identifiable possibilities for growth but resources are short. Much of our focus in Seeking the Kingdom is rightly on our parishes.

We are relieved of some choices but have to make others. To ease the costs of a substantial 11.1% increase in clergy stipends to support the well-being of clergy and their families in every parish, part of the extra money is specifically for our 25% least well-off parishes. We can all warm to this proposal: well-being, financial and

From the Diocese (Cont.)

otherwise for clergy, is our collective responsibility. Better still, the whole church family and all those who contribute so generously the lion's share of the costs of clergy, buildings and mission will benefit too: more funding for less prosperous parts of the diocese gives us the opportunity to reduce the amount of mutual support needed. Well-being is at the heart of the direction and goals of Seeking the Kingdom, our plan for 2025-2030. Churches that flourish and people that flourish do so because they are immersed in the common activity of building the Kingdom of God and building the Kingdom brings more flourishing: it's a virtual circle.

Questions will arise about how the rest of the money that we will receive is to be used and our diocesan decision-makers will be taking a look at next year's budget starting this Autumn with consultations in each Episcopal Area, taking proposals to Synod in October. The additional money over which we have a choice has the power to call us all into a new future. It is tapered over nine years, so we can't simply spend it on business as usual as it won't last. Can we all gather round the idea that it is there to give us hope in a sustainable future and to address the challenge posed afresh that we are sustaining ourselves at present using a diminishing pot of reserves?

Arun Kataria is the Diocesan Director of Communications, helping share news around the diocese and working closely with colleagues on staff and synods to promote our diocesan goals –

www.lichfield.anglican.org/our-vision

Over the next few months, the whole diocese - parishes, clergy, lay leaders... everyone - is invited to explore attitudes to money together, looking at 'Gratitude, Opportunity and Hope'.



Safeguarding

The United Benefice is committed to Safeguarding and has adopted the National and Diocesan Safeguarding Policies for the welfare of everyone in our congregations. Anyone requiring any further information or raising concerns should contact the Safeguarding Coordinators: **Christ Church, Stone:** Andrew Stone on

Safeguarding2@christchurchstone.org

Oulton with Moddershall; Mary Gale on

Office@christchurchstone.org

Or contact the church office [01785 811990] to leave your details, and Andrew or Mary will ring you back.

The vicar, Rev Paul Kingman can also be contacted on 01785 812669.

If the matter is more urgent, or you feel uncomfortable contacting someone in our Benefice, you may contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Team at Lichfield <https://www.lichfield.anglican.org/safeguarding/>

Thank you....

from Helen and John for all your prayers, support, hugs and lovely messages throughout Hannah's illness over the last two and a half years and in our recent loss of our amazing daughter. Thank you to those who took the time to watch the YouTube stream of Hannah's funeral service at Life Central Church—I know many of you found it a real blessing—it was a wonderful tribute to her.

Please continue to pray especially for Dave, Penny, Felicity and Jemima as they face life without Hannah. Thank you to our incredible Church family in Christ Church, Oulton & Moddershall..

(if you missed the service you can still access it and it is well worth a watch! It is on <https://youtube.com/live/5YGuZq7gCcE>—it starts 27 minutes into the broadcast.)

The Battle of Hopton Heath

Halfway between Stone and Stafford lies MOD Store No. 6, part of RAF Stafford. In 1643, on this rather unspectacular site, the Battle of Hopton Heath took place between the Parliamentarians led by Sir John Gell, and the Royalists under the Earl of Northampton. Having earlier taken Lichfield, Gell had turned his attentions to Stafford. The Royalists were determined to stop this advance and brought up the legendary 'Roaring Meg' an immense cannon capable of creating all sorts of mayhem. Each side fielded around 2000 men and after several hours of fighting, both sides withdrew exhausted.

Neither side had conclusively won, although Parliamentary losses far outnumbered Royalist losses – around 500 men captured or killed as compared to 45 Royalists {although this included the Earl of Northampton}. Both sides lit their campfires overnight, but in the morning, the Parliamentarians had disappeared – the Royalists had held Stafford. Subsequent to this, Prince Rupert retook Lichfield which remained Royalist for the rest of the Civil War. No such luck for Stafford however and a surprise attack later that year meant Parliamentary rule for that town.

There is an interesting information board on the site of the battle accessed by a footpath about 400 yards from the minor road between the County Showground and Hopton. Quite how the MOD managed to get permission to build a warehouse on the site of an important battle will remain one of life's mysteries.

John Bowes

Here is a photo of the information board at the site—They don't want you getting in!!!



Groups and Rotas

Deanery Synod Reps	Helen Bowes, Sue Kingman
P.C.C. Members	Lynne Collier, Maxine Garrington-Miller, Marylyn Hillman, George Holden, Pete Kelly, Liz Mason, Shelagh Sanders, Andy Stone, Gary Williams, Shirley Hallam,
Secretary	Shelagh Sanders
Treasurer	Pete Kelly
Envelopes, Gift Aid	Lynda Marenghi

REGISTERS

BAPTISMS:

WEDDINGS:

FUNERALS :

FLOWER ROTA

5th October:	
12th October:	Alison West
19th October:	
26th October:	Liz Mason

WELCOMER

Marilyn Overall
Mandy Dudd
Jeanette Rowlands
Pete Kelly

Roads for Prayer

5th October

King’s Avenue
Longton Road
Margaret Street
Meadowside

12th October
Meaford Avenue
Millenium Way
Millers Gate
Mount Avenue

19th October

Mount Crescent
Mount Road
Mount Street
Navigation Loop

26th October
Newcastle Road
Newcastle Street
Nicholls Lane
Northesk Street

