

Christ Church Magazine



December 2025



40p



PARISH DIRECTORY

SUNDAY SERVICES

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

THE PARISH TEAM

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Children & Families Worker	Peter Cuthbert peter.j.cuthbert@btinternet.com	07733 042205
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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: Mrs Tara Thorn 01785 334900

Christ Church Magazine

December 2025



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Please send your articles for the January magazine to us by the 15th December

Cover Picture:
Advent Windows!.
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



Hello Everyone,

Seasons Greetings! I am looking forward to all the Christmas events at the Church in this time of great celebration—the greatest story ever told!

In this month's magazine we have some very interesting articles—'Getting to Know you' and 'Something on your Mind' as well as a history article on Barlaston Hall. I have included a Christmas Quiz and of course all the details of the Christmas services are included.

Regular articles—From the Vicarage, Church Diary and Prayer/Mission Diary of course are her for your information. Enjoy!

God bless, Helen.

November 15th

From the Vicarage.....

The Four Last Things

Advent [lit: 'coming'] is seen as the start of the Christmas season. Decorations appear in shops, schools, homes, offices, hospitals, pubs and churches. Carols are played by shopping centres for the spendathon. Rehearsals for school nativity plays and choir concerts get in full swing. Does Advent really matter when the big thing is Christmas?

Advent is the time to watch and wait for Jesus Christ's coming (his birth) but also anticipates His promised second coming (his future return). Advent is therefore a prelude to the Christmas season (25th December to 6th January). Four big themes are traditionally focussed: death, judgment, heaven and hell, the last of which is traditionally preached on the Sunday prior to Christmas Eve because: *'The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world'* (John 1v9). John's Gospel describes the world as big dark. The unbeliever described: *'You lived in this world without God and without hope'* (Eph 2v12). But let's focus briefly on the four advent themes:

From the Vicarage.....cont.)

Death and hope: the reality of the present world is one of darkness in the world and in our community where injustices continue and grief overshadows. But since Jesus has already come and been victorious over death, we look forward to his return to bring an end to all death. That gives us hope.

Judgment and love: following death comes judgment. This judgment is for all, whether believers or unbelievers, good or bad. On that day the LORD will put all wrongs right when He overturn injustices and establishes righteousness. We worship a good God who is Holy and so He will not compromise with sin and evil; He is righteous and so he upholds justice; He is merciful and gracious because He is love.

Heaven and joy: what is heaven like? The popular ideas of heaven having people floating around all day or playing an endless round of golf or drinks parties on the beach are way off the mark! Heaven is where Jesus is adored by the heavenly host and all His redeemed people. Free from the taint of sin and shadow of death it will be a place of joy.

Hell and peace: Jesus spoke about hell and chose not to dodge the issue or play it down. He invited people to count the cost, then take up their cross and follow Him. They will not be winners in this life, but they will be victorious in the next. Jesus gave stark warnings about the consequence of rejecting Him. All who are rebels against King Jesus will face hell and be excluded from His presence. All who revere Him will enter His eternal Kingdom and enjoy peace everlasting.

Our Advent daily devotional book this year is called 'Hallelujah!' It draws on Handel's '*Messiah*' to prepare for a great celebration. Will you join us to sing 'Hallelujah!'?

Paul Kingman

December 2025



December 2025

	Date	Time	Events (Zoom codes in weekly email)
Mon	1st	9.30 am	Toddler group
Tue	2nd	10.30 am	Communion; Isaiah 6: 1-13 "The Holy One"
Wed	3rd	9.00 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; Matthew 8: 18-27 "Head down?" Bible Study: Jesus through Old Testament eyes (2/8)
Mon	8th	9.30 am	Toddler group
Tue	9th	10.30 am 12.30 pm 2.00 pm 6.30 pm	Communion; Isaiah 7: 1-17 "The Immanuel sign" Pursuit Club Christ Church Academy Autumn House - Church at Home service Christ Church First School Christmas Concert
Wed	10th	9.00 am 2.00 pm 3.30 pm	Christ Church First School assembly Oulton Abbey - Church at Home service Trekks
Thu	11th	11.00 am 1.10 pm	St. Mary's - Church at Home service Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	12th		
Sat	13th		
Sun	14th	9.15 am 5.00 pm	Morning Prayer; Matthew 8: 28-34 "Liberated" Bible Study: Jesus through Old Testament eyes (3/8)
Mon	15th	9.30 am	Toddler group
Tue	16th	10.30 am 12.30 pm 1.30 pm	Communion; Isaiah 8: 11-18 "The Almighty" Pursuit Club Christ Church Academy Christ Church First School Christmas Service

December 2025

	Date	Time	Events
Wed	17th	9.00 am 3.30 pm	Christ Church First School assembly Trekking
Thu	18th	1.10 pm 6.30 pm	Christ Church Academy assembly Christ Church Academy Christmas Concert
Fri	19th		
Sat	20th	4.00 pm	Christingle and Crafts
Sun	21st	9.15 am 5.00 pm	Communion; Matthew 1: 1-17 "Son of David" Carol Service
Mon	22nd		
Tue	23rd	10.30 am	Communion; Isaiah 9: 1-7 "No more gloom"
Wed	24th	9.30 am 11.00 am 11.00 pm	Advent Windows trail starting at Stone Pharmacy Final Advent Window opening Late night Carols and Communion; Isaiah 11: 1-9 "The Branch from Jesse"
Thu	25th	9.15 am	Christmas Day Communion; Matthew 2: 1-12 "Shepherd King"
Fri	26th		
Sat	27th		
Sun	28th	11.00 am	Joint Benefice service of Carol Praise at St. John the Evangelist, Oulton Matthew 2: 13-23 "Escape and return"
Mon	29th		
Tue	30th	10.30 am	Communion; Isaiah 12: "Praise the Lord!"
Wed	31st		

MISSION PRAYER DIARY

WEEK ONE - Barnabus Aid

Barnabus aid is an international aid agency that aims to support Christian communities, churches and individuals around the world who face persecution and discrimination because of their faith

PRAYER POINTS

Pray for protection for Christians in northern Mozambique. Islamists have claimed the killing of 36 Christians. Pray that Christians will remain steadfast in faith amid the violence.

Please pray for the family of a Pakistani Christian man who was shot dead while on his way to attend a Christian festival. Afzal Masih, 46 years old, leaves behind his wife and four sons

Five Christian converts from Islam face long prison terms after an appeal court in Iran's capital Tehran rejected their appeals. Pray that they will know strong encouragement and faith in God's purposes as they begin their harsh sentences.

Thank the Lord for the latest batch of approvals for church buildings, and for steps taken by the current government of Egypt to improve the situation of Egyptian Christians.

WEEK TWO - Children's Society

FOCUS: The Christingle Collection

The money raised from Christingle collections each year is given to the Children's society, who do vital work supporting children and young people.

PRAYER POINTS

Thank God for the children's society team who have a heart to help and fight for young people and their futures.

Thank God for the way He can use the Christingle services to bring new children into church, showing them the love of Jesus.

Pray for all those who hear the gospel for the first time, that they may be filled with the love of Christ and have the support and guidance they need to continue their Christian journey.

Pray for the young people across the UK that have left care and are struggling financially as they begin their adult lives, that they may be surrounded by people who love and care for them at Christmas.



**The
Children's
Society**

Please pray for.....

WEEK THREE - Tearfund

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.

PRAYER POINT - Focus Gaza and Israel

Pray for Tearfund in Gaza and the West Bank, that God would strengthen them as they provide food and essentials to families who have been displaced

Pray that this will be a lasting ceasefire and that Israel and Hamas will commit to a just and lasting peace.

Pray for God to change the hearts of world leaders towards justice, peace and mercy.

Pray that God's peace would fill the hearts and minds of everyone who is suffering because of this conflict.

Pray for church leaders – for wisdom and strength to lead people through fear and uncertainty.

Pray that people across the Middle East will not lose hope – that lasting peace is possible

The logo consists of a bright yellow square background. In the center of the square is a dark blue rounded rectangle. Inside this blue rectangle, the word "tearfund" is written in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font.

WEEK FOUR - Open doors

FOCUS: Prisoners

Our purpose is to strengthen and equip the body of Christ living under or facing restriction and persecution because of their faith in Jesus Christ

PRAYER POINTS

In the month after the ceasefire with Israel, more believers in Iran were arrested (at least 54) compared to the six months beforehand (40). Pray for release, healing and strength.

Open Doors and other charities have launched a campaign calling for the release of seven pastors imprisoned in Eritrea for 21 years. Pray for favour and breakthrough.

Praise God for the release of eight young Christians arrested in Chad during an evangelistic campaign. Pray for their recovery, and that good will come from the incident

Pastor Pavel (65) has been imprisoned for three years in Kyrgyzstan, after which he faces deportation. His church has been banned for being 'extremist'. Pray that the sentence and ban will be overturned



Open Doors

60 years of serving persecuted Christians



Christmas Services



Saturday 20th December

4.00 p.m. Christingle crafts and short service at Christ Church, Stone

Sunday 21st December

9.15 a.m. Morning Prayer Service at Christ Church, Stone

3.00 p.m. Carol Service at St John the Evangelist, Oulton

5.00 p.m. Carol Service at Christ Church, Stone

Wednesday 24th December

9.30 a.m. Advent Windows trail

11.00 a.m. Final Advent Window opening at Christ Church, Stone

5.00 p.m. Carol Service at All Saints, Moddershall

11.00 p.m. Late night Carols and Communion at Christ Church, Stone

Thursday 25th December

9.15 a.m. Christmas Day Communion at Christ Church, Stone

11.00 a.m. Christmas Day Communion at St John the Evangelist, Oulton

Sunday 28th December

11.00 a.m. Joint service of Carol Praise at St John the Evangelist, Oulton

Sunday 4th January 2026

11.00 a.m. Joint service of Holy Communion at Christ Church, Stone with bring and share lunch to follow





Advent Windows 2025



Advent Windows 2025 is here. Our Theme this year is the 'Advent Alphabet' so our creators will each be featuring their Alphabet letter as part of their Christmas display. The displays will be up from the 1st December and the map/leaflet is being designed by our friends from Vantage Point Creative this year—we are grateful to them for all their help. Each day the window will be 'opened' at 11.00am—the plan is below so you will know each day where to come to join in with our Christmas story and singing.

See over the page for the details and map.

We look forward to seeing you there!!!!

Helen



Christingle 2025



Come and join us at the Christingle on **Saturday 21st December. At 4.00pm.**

Crafts , refreshments and and fun for all.



12. Millies Pie Shop -
Created by Oulton Church

13. X-trawled -
Created by Waterways Chaplaincy /
Canal Cruising Company

14. Stone Pharmacy -
Created by Springfield OSC

15. Baystone Interiors -
Created by Oulton 1st School

16. AED Donate Furniture Shop -
Created by Manor Hill

17. Shear Genius -
Created by Christ Church Academy

18. Children's Society -
Created by Elmhurst Day Nursery

19. Secret Tea Room -
Created by Mumbles Day Nursery

20. Lively Artisan Lifestyle -
Created by St. Mary's Nursing Home

21. Bad Bar & Coffee Shop -
Created by The Early Years Academy

22. Little Dots -
Created by Meaford Fields Day Nursery

23. Autocare -
Created by Kids Planet Day Nursery

24. Christ Church -
Created by Christ Church

Walk the trail to see festive displays and hear
the Christmas story with carols.
Runs daily from December 1-24.

Displays are open anytime, with an 11:00 am
"opening ceremony" each day featuring story
and song. Venues are listed below and shown
on the map.

1. Vantage Point Creative -
Created by St-Dominics Priory School

2. Woolliscrofts -
Created by Oaktree Farm Rural Projects

3. Co-op Funeral Care -
Created by Walton Priory School

4. John Burton -
Created by Pirehill School

5. Cats Protection League -
Created by Christ Church 1st School

6. Library -
Created by Hub Craft Group

7. Christ Church -
Created by Sunday School

8. AED Donate Clothes Shop -
Created by The Crossing Community Centre

9. British Heart Foundation -
Created by Smartys Day Nursery

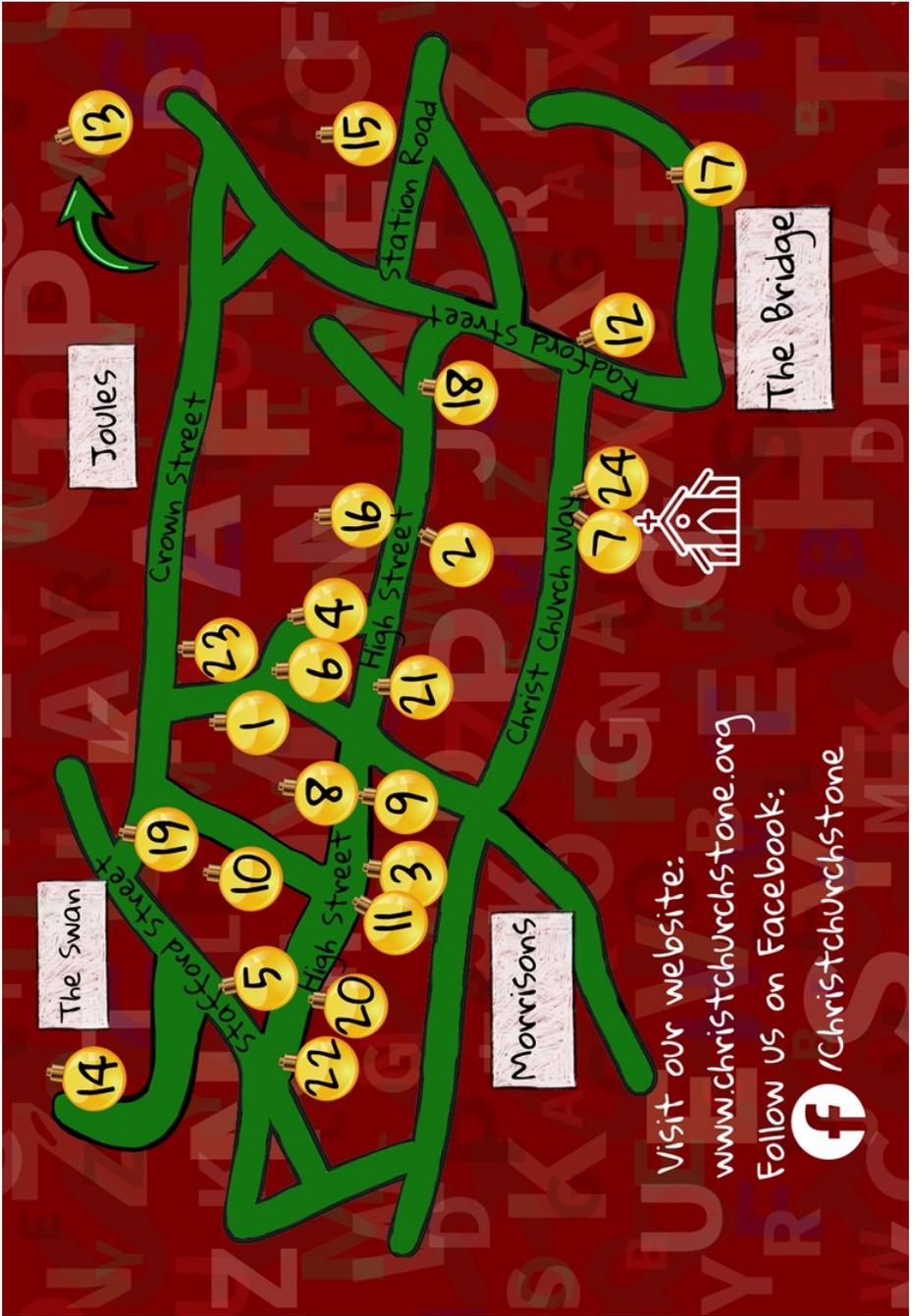
10. Mud Pottery -
Created by St-Dominics Primary School

11. Co-op Funeral Care -
Created by St-Michaels School

STONE ADVENT ALPHABET 2025



Advent Windows 2025



Visit our website:
www.christchurchstone.org
Follow us on Facebook:

 /Christchurchstone

Introducing Frank—The Singing Teacher



Frank and his lovely wife Berenice joined out church family when they moved to Stone in 2021. Frank quickly joined in with church life offering his services assisting with communion. You can also find him in the kitchen making tea and washing up.

After training as a teacher Frank began his distinguished career in education – appointed to his first job in Bordesley Green. Here he was the only English member of staff- everyone else was Welsh! He became an honorary member of the

award winning Canoldir Welsh Male Voice Choir.

However, love brought him back to Stoke on Trent when, in 1967, he married Berenice. He started working at Ball Green High School in September and took a few days off in the October half term to marry Berenice.

Frank taught History but his role became increasingly pastoral. He became Head of Year and then Deputy Head and despite his busy day job managed to acquire a B.Ed Honours degree at Crewe and Alsager College.

Retiring from full-time work in 1995 he continued to work with the Careers Service but then he changed direction completely and worked for ‘Greenhouse People’ based in Cresswell.

In retirement Frank has more time for his hobbies. I can vouch for the fact that he is an excellent cook who can produce a wonderful roast dinner but he also enjoys gardening, wildlife walks, and reading (particularly historical material). This leaves a bit of time in his life for TV sport – especially Rugby Union. (cont....)

Getting to Know you (cont.)

Frank still enjoys music and values the opportunity to share with other Christians in worship. He particularly enjoys the music in church one of his favourites being 'How great Thou Art'. His favourite Bible Verse is John 3:16 sometimes described as 'The Gospel in a Nutshell' 'For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son , that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.'

Raised on a smallholding Frank reflects that he might well have followed a different path in life and become a farmer but if you ask him about his career it is easy to see that Frank was an enthusiastic and committed teacher.

I asked what Frank would like to say to people about our church and he said 'You might be surprised – give it a try!'

Christine Pentland



**A Beautiful Rainbow
over Christ Church**

—photo by Dilys

October 2025



Hi There,

Winter is now upon us, with storms and now this week, as I write this, a possible cold snap with snow and ice. So here are some wintery photos of the canal to share with you.

I attended the Waterways Chaplaincy National Celebration Day in Rugby on November 8th—always good to get together with chaplains from all over the country and hear of their experiences and stories. The main topic was of course the way forward for the Chaplaincy as Church Army will no longer, (after a transition period) be our sole trustees and funders. Our lead Chaplains are working hard to secure new streams of funding and ways of working which will enable the chaplaincy to flourish and continue supporting the many boaters out there. There is much to get through in terms of legalities and although we have always been an independent charity the admin support, office space, storage, access to safeguarding training etc that was provided by Church Army will be missed!



You will have noticed that locally the ‘Star Lock’ has been under repair for the last couple of weeks—much needed and hopefully will improve access and passage for the boaters. Aston Lock is next, I understand, so water levels should (together with all the rain) be better I hope.

We are looking forward to Advent Windows - boater Jenny and myself, together with the Guides and

Tales from the Towpath (cont)

Kimberley from Canal Cruising, have been putting our Advent window together. The WWC window will be in Xtraweld (used to be the Chandlery) on the Towpath up by Newcastle Road Lock on Saturday 13th December—I do hope many of you will come along and support us. I am also putting a WWC Christmas tree in St Michael's Church Christmas tree festival in December; The theme is the 'Idle Women' - come along and find out about it!!!!

I have been booked to give three different talks to organisations in 2026 about the work of the WWC which I am looking forward to, do let me know if you would like a talk—most people find it very interesting.

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 15/11/25



Photo by Ann Smith

Holy Interruption

Craig Newton, new director of Shallowford House, our diocesan retreat centre, mulls the season of mistletoe and wine.



There's a certain stillness in the air as the year begins to draw to a close. It's a quiet that sits beneath the busyness of December, beneath the shopping lists and Christmas parties, beneath the deadlines and the expectations. It's the solemn quiet of winter. Of early nights and frosted mornings. Of candles lit against the dark.

If we allow ourselves to listen, Advent has a different rhythm to the world around it. Where the world demands we speed up, Advent invites us to slow down. Where the world grows loud, Advent gently whispers. Where the world requires more, Advent offers rest. Advent, in its truest sense, is a season of holy waiting. A time not to strive, but to receive.

In the Gospel stories, before the multitudes of the heavenly host praised God, there was silence. Before the light of a star broke into the night sky, there was anticipation. Before God came close in the vulnerability of a child, there were ordinary people going about their ordinary lives. It was in that stillness, unnoticed by



most, that Heaven touched earth.



This is the fulfilment of Advent: God interrupting the ordinary. The Incarnation is the great holy interruption; the Creator entering creation, the Eternal One stepping into time, Heaven colliding with earth. It didn't arrive with prestige or power, but in the stillness of the night, in a place where most weren't looking.

This is how God so often moves. Not through the sensational and spectacular, but through quiet, unassuming moments. A whispered prayer. A small act of kindness. A pause in the rush of the day.

As Dietrich Bonhoeffer once wrote, "We must be ready to allow ourselves to be interrupted by God." Perhaps this Advent, we might learn again how to make room for those interruptions. To pause, long enough to notice where the light breaks in. To listen, for the whisper beneath the noise. To create for ourselves and for others, spaces of stillness in which the God who came at Bethlehem might meet us again

Craig Newton joined the diocese in August as director of Shallowford House, our diocesan retreat and conference centre and is looking forward to welcoming people through his first winter of retreat days, workshops and hosting church weeks/weekends and other groups stays. The ever-evolving calendar of up-coming retreats et al can be found at <https://shallowfordhouse.org/events1/>



Light Party!!!!

This year's Light Party was a great success! We had a total of 27 children attending - the largest number we've had since I've been in the post of Children and Families Worker! Having had a low turnout last year, we decided this year to shift the date of the Light Party to the 2nd November, and it seems the change really paid off.

After a lot of planning, compiling party bags, preparing food, blowing up balloons, and assembling games, the evening kicked off at 3pm! Children arrived and signed in, and then had some free time to enjoy themselves. They could complete a star scavenger hunt in church (or play with the huge Jenga and skittles!), decorate star biscuits, make light themed crafts, play with bubble wands, or get their faces painted. Next it was time for some group games - we had so many children attending that we had to have two separate pass-the-parcels going around at once! The children also enjoyed playing energetic team games with the balloons, though we've never had quite so many balloons pop on the overhead lights! Then it was time to move to the church to listen to a short talk about Jesus, the Light of the World. The children got to think about what it means to 'walk in darkness' and how light can guide us so we know where we need to go, and how Jesus can do that for all of us!

Finally, after some speedy food prep by our volunteers in the kitchen, the children all sat down together to eat a party tea.

There were pizzas, sandwiches, fruit, biscuits, cakes, and other little nibbles too. By 5pm it was time to go home, and each child left with a party bag containing some sweets, toys, stickers, and two light-themed tracts about Jesus.



It seemed like the children all had a great time, and we can only hope and pray for similar success next year. A big thank you to everyone who provided food, or who helped on the night. And thank you God for a fun, lively evening celebrating the light that Jesus brings to the world!



Peter Cuthbert

“Something on your mind”

A friend looks at you thoughtfully with their head slightly inclined and asks, “Have you got something on your mind”? You respond “No, it’s nothing really”. It may be a small personal matter like worrying whether the safety camera van caught you doing a bit over the speed limit, or a more general, even worldwide, matter in the news which keeps taking over your thinking.

Like some popular song or tune the matter is “on your brain”. It keeps coming back to distract and worry you, so that even your friends notice that you are “not yourself”.

St Paul tells us in Philippians 4:6 to turn the situation into prayer and petition. *“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God”*. Good advice indeed, but it’s not easy.

Praying continually about the issue can keep it in the forefront of our minds. This can reinforce our anxiety about a personal problem and make us feel helpless if it’s a worldwide issue on our minds.

(cont..)

“Something on your mind” (cont.)

Perhaps one way of resolving this dilemma is to take it to God in prayer the first time we think about it each day and then in faith leave it in His loving hands and not pray about it again that day.

But what do we do when, ten minutes later, our problem is back? Decide in advance to use the thought as a prompt to pray for another situation needing your prayer. For example, for a friend just coming to terms with a potentially life-threatening condition. Stay with the same issue throughout the day replacing your worry every time it erupts.

Sometimes forces of evil are present adding fuel to the fires of our incessant worry. The devil does not want to encourage our praying! If this is the case, we will find that the worry diminishes.

When our loving Lord wants us to maintain our vigil for our friend or worldwide issue our personal worry will become the Lord’s springboard helping us in our prayer for the external issue we have chosen, and so our problem will be used for good. Maybe this is a way that we can use St Paul’s advice *“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God”*.

Roger

.....

Answers to Quiz:-

Wednesday 2. White 3. Rudyard Kipling 4. Christmas Crackers
 5. Tiny Tim 6. St Nicholas 7. Capricorn 8. Let it Snow 9. Tin-
 sel 10. Richard Attenborough 11. The Puritans 12. Dumb &
 Dumber 13. Caribou 14. 3.00pm 15. Crocodile Dundee 16. 5
 Gold Rings 17. Panetone 18. A Hat



1. On which day of the week was Christmas Day 2019?
2. What colour are the berries found on the European mistletoe plant?
3. Which journalist, writer and poet wrote the first ever King's Christmas message - it was for George V in 1932?
4. What did Tom Smith of London invent in 1847 after getting the idea on a trip to Paris?
5. What is the name of Bob Cratchit's youngest child in the book, A Christmas Carol?
6. The modern Santa Claus was based on traditions surrounding which fourth-century Greek bishop?
7. If you were born on Christmas Day, what is your star sign?
8. Which song plays out the end credits of the film Die Hard?
9. What, with parts called 'lametta', was invented in Nuremberg, Germany in 1610?
10. Who played Kris Kringle in the 1994 film Miracle on 34th Street?
11. Who were the English Protestants in the 16th and 17th centuries that objected to celebrating Christmas?
12. Lloyd Christmas is roommates with best friend Harry Dunne in which 1994 film?
13. What do Americans call reindeer?
14. At what time on Christmas Day each year does the Queen broadcast to the nation?
15. In 1989, a record TV audience of 22 million watched the UK premiere of which film on Christmas Day?
16. On the fifth day of Christmas what new items did my true love give to me?
17. What cake is offered typically during Christmas throughout Italy?
18. Which item of clothing brought Frosty the Snowman back to life?

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/>

Barlaston Hall

Approaching Stone from Stoke on the A34, over on the left side can be seen an imposing English Palladium house – Barlaston Hall. Built in 1756 – 1758 for Thomas Mills, an attorney from Leek, it is apparently of high architectural merit and has rare octagonal and round windows. In 1774, it was featured on one of the dishes of a 925 piece dinner service specially commissioned by Empress Catherine II of Russia and produced by Wedgwood at the new Etruria works. In 1816, the Hall passed to the Adderley family whose son was High Sheriff of Staffordshire. In 1937, Josiah Wedgwood and Sons Ltd purchased the 380 acre Barlaston Hall Estate for the development of a modern factory, village and railway station with sidings.

Barlaston Hall (Cont.)

After the war, Barlaston Hall became the first home of the Wedgwood Memorial College – a residential adult education centre. The discovery of dry rot in 1949 led to the closure of the college and its eventual transfer to two imposing Victorian houses in the village of Barlaston – The Limes and Estoril House where courses in Esperanto were offered – more about them later.

Over the next twenty years, Barlaston Hall became an almost total wreck being vandalised and subject to severe subsidence from coal mining. Wedgwood made an application to have it demolished, but at a subsequent public enquiry, Save Britain's Heritage purchased the house for £1 on condition that the refurbishment could be completed within 5 years. The National Coal Board agreed to pay for the cost of repairing the subsidence damage with a concrete raft under the house. Although SBH had to go to court to get the NCB to complete this undertaking, the renovation was completed by 1992 and the House was sold as a private dwelling – current value £2.9 million.

Courses continued to be offered at the College in Barlaston until 2012 when the non – Esperanto part of the College was closed. Courses continued at Estoril House, but this building had an interesting past in that in 1952 it had been the site of what the Home Office described as 'the most vicious murder of the twentieth century'. The details of this unfortunate episode can all be found on the internet. Suffice to say that the culprit was executed by world famous hangman Albert Pierrepoint at Winson Green Prison in December 1952. Both former homes of the College in Barlaston appear to be in a sorry state at present.

John Bowes



Groups and Rotas

Deanery Synod Reps
P.C.C. Members

Helen Bowes, Sue Kingman
Lynne Collier, Maxine Garrington-Miller,
Marylyn Hillman, George Holden, Pete Kelly,
Liz Mason, Shelagh Sanders, Andy Stone,
Gary Williams, Shirley

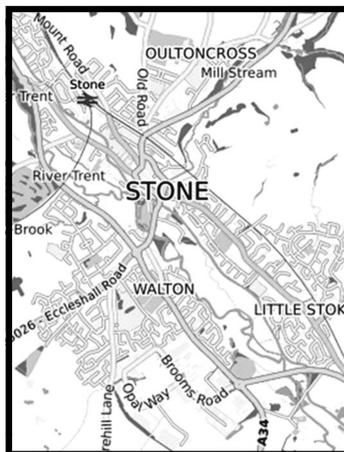
Hallam,
Secretary
Treasurer

Shelagh Sanders
Pete Kelly



FLOWER ROTA		WELCOMER	
7th DEC	Shirley Hallam	7th DEC	Pam Roberts
14th Dec		14th Dec	Marilyn Overall
21st Dec		21st Dec	Jacqueline Abrahams
28th Dec		28th Dec	Mandy Dudd
28th December: Benefice Service at St. John the Evangelist, Oulton			

CHURCH REGISTERS	BAPTISMS
	WEDDINGS
	FUNERALS



Roads for Prayer

1st Dec

Sawyer Way
Station Road
Stonefield Court
Stonefield Square

8th Dec

The Avenue
The Crescent
Trent Court
Trent Road

5th Dec

Trinity Drive
Tunley Street
Victor Street
Victoria Street

22nd Dec

Whitebridge Lane
York Street
Airdale Grove
Airdale Road

29th Dec

Airdale Spinney
Albert Street
Alexandra Street
Alma Street