

Christ Church Magazine

April 2026



40p

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PARISH DIRECTORY

SUNDAY SERVICES

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

THE PARISH TEAM

Vicar	Paul Kingman The Vicarage, Bromfield Court	812669
Children & Families Worker	Peter Cuthbert peter.j.cuthbert@btinternet.com	07733 042205
Electoral Roll Officer Parish Office	Parish Office Christ Church Centre, Christ Church Way, Stone, Staffs ST15 8ZB Email office@christchurchstone.org	811990 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: Mrs Tara Thorn 01785 334900

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**Committed to following
Jesus. Commissioned to
make Disciples**



Front Cover –
Easter Dawn

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



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month or if you pay for a
whole year it is 12 copies
for the price of 10!
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Christ Church on the Internet

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Parish office email office@christchurchstone.org
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From the Editor

Hello there,
 Greetings – Easter is almost here – that wonderful time in the church year when we remember the death of Jesus and celebrate that He is Risen!!!! This April magazine is packed with interesting articles and news. Please do keep sending in your items – places you have visited, events you have been to, anything that may be interesting!



Please note the 'Everybody Welcome' poster on page 23 – this is a really important outreach that Christ Church does on Farmers Market Saturdays – please help if you can.

Do come to the Holiday Club service on **Sunday 12th April** – breakfast goodies beforehand!

Enjoy and God bless,
 Helen

From the Vicarage.....

Why does Jesus' resurrection matter?

If you want to explore the evidence for the resurrection of Jesus, then read "The case for Easter – a journalist investigates evidence for the resurrection" by Lee Strobel (see the bookstall). But, we ask, **so what?** Here are some reasons why it is so important.

1. It testifies to God's sovereign power. Only He who created life can resurrect it after death, and only He can remove '*the sting of death*' and gain the victory over the grave (I Corinthians 15v54-55). To believe in the resurrection is to believe in God.
2. It proves Jesus' claim to be the Son of God and Messiah. Jesus said that His resurrection was the "*sign from heaven*" that authenticated His ministry (Matthew 16v1-4). This was witnessed by many eyewitnesses (I Corinthians 15v3-8).
3. It demonstrated Jesus' divine nature. Psalm 16v10 tells us that God '*will not let your Holy One see decay*'/corruption. It was because of meeting the risen Jesus

From the Vicarage (cont)

that Saul, who was putting people to death for saying that Jesus was the Messiah, had his life turned around. He took a new name of Paul and preached the resurrection proves that forgiveness of sins was possible (Acts 13v38-39).

4. It validates Old Testament prophecies about Jesus' suffering and resurrection (Acts 17v2-3). It also authenticated His own claims of rising on the third day (Mark 8v31). If Jesus was not resurrected, then our faith would be "useless," the gospel would be powerless, and our sins would remain unforgiven (I Corinthians 15v14-19).
5. It is the basis of a resurrection hope. Jesus confers His life on those who trust in Him, so that we can share His triumph over death (I John 5v11-12).
6. It testifies to our own resurrection. Jesus is "*the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep*" (I Corinthians 15v20). Christianity is unique because its Founder transcends death and promises His followers the same. The grave could not hold Him. He lives, and He sits today at the right hand of the Father in heaven (Hebrews 10v12).
7. God guarantees the believer's resurrection at the coming of Jesus Christ for His church: "*Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?*" (I Cor 15v55).
8. It gives us purpose: "*Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain*" (I Corinthians 15v58).
9. It shows Jesus' promises can be trusted including his future return and raising of the dead (I Thessalonians 4v13-18).

Why is the resurrection of Jesus celebrated at Easter? It proves who Jesus is, it shows his sacrifice for sins was accepted. It shows that God has the power to raise us from the dead.

Who will celebrate with us? All who put their trust in Jesus. Will this include you? I hope so!

Paul Kingman

April 2026



Church Diary April 2026

April 2026

	Date	Time	Events (Zoom codes in weekly email)
Wed	1st	9.00 am 2.00 pm 7.30 pm	Christ Church First School assembly Trekksers 'Prayer Course' Lent group study in the centre (6 of 6)
Thu	2nd	1.10 pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	3rd	10.00 am 10.45 am 7.00 pm	Good Friday Children's Easter crafts in the centre Joint service for all Meditation on Christ's Passion
Sat	4th		
Sun	5th	9.15 am	Easter Day Communion; Matthew 28: 1-15 "Resurrection ruse or revelation?"
Mon	6th		
Tue	7th	10.30 am 1.30 pm	Communion; Psalm 16 "Resurrection" Watt-a-Lott Castle, children's holiday club, in the centre
Wed	8th	1.30 pm	Watt-a-Lott Castle, children's holiday club, in the centre
Thu	9th	1.30 pm	Watt-a-Lott Castle, children's holiday club, in the centre
Fri	10th	1.30 pm	Watt-a-Lott Castle, children's holiday club, in the centre
Sat	11th	8.30 am	Prayer meeting followed by breakfast
Sun	12th	9.15 am	Watt-a-Lott Castle holiday club breakfast and service; Matthew 21: 1-11 "The true king - Jesus"
Mon	13th	9.30 am	Toddler group
Tue	14th	10.30 am 12.30 pm 2.00 pm	Communion; Luke 5: 17-26 "His authority to forgive" Pursuit Club Christ Church Academy Autumn House — Church at Home service
Wed	15th	9.00 am 2.30 pm	Christ Church First School assembly Oulton Abbey — Church at Home service

Church Diary April 2026

April 2026

	Date	Time	Events (Zoom codes in weekly email)
		3.30 pm	Trekkers
Thu	16th	11.00 am 1.10 pm	St. Mary's Home — Church at Home service Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	17th		
Sat	18th		
Sun	19th	9.15 am 4.00 pm	Communion; 1 Corinthians 1: 1-17 "A truly blessed people" APCM meeting in the centre
Mon	20th	9.30 am	Toddler group
Tue	21st	10.30 am	Communion; Luke 5: 27-1 2 "His mission"
Wed	22nd	9.00 am 2.00 pm	Christ Church First School assembly Trekkers
Thu	23rd	1.10 pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	24th		
Sat	25th		
Sun	26th	9.15 am 4.00 pm	All age; 1 Corinthians 1: 18-25 "A saved people" Discipleship (3-2-1) course at the Vicarage (1 of 4)
Mon	27th	9.30 am	Toddler group
Tue	28th	10.30 am 12.30 pm	Communion; Luke 5: 33-39 "His joyful presence" Pursuit Club Christ Church Academy
Wed	29th	9.00 am 2.00 pm	Christ Church First School assembly Trekkers
Thu	30th	1.10 pm	Christ Church Academy assembly

Take Time to Pray

Mission Prayer Diary 5th to 11th April

Church Mission Society – Jigsaw - Tim and Kate Lee

Tim founded Jigsaw Kids' Ministries in Manila in 2004 to share God's love in practical and strategic ways with children and families living in extreme hardship and poverty, working towards the vision of life in all fullness for all children. He now has responsibility for Jigsaw both in the Philippines and the UK.

In 2026, while continuing their full range of ministries and activities, Jigsaw hopes to focus on three key developments:

1. Expanding our child protection community programme and developing Jigsaw's street-children and children-at-risk nutrition programme.
 2. A new Jigsaw centre building.
 3. Launching Jigsaw's Christian kindergartens, called Start-Up Clubs.
- *Please pray for Tim and the Jigsaw leadership team as they continue to direct, lead and manage the ministry.*
 - *Pray for God's love, wisdom and guidance as they navigate the difficulties of extreme poverty and the harm faced by many children.*
 - *As they focus on expanding child protection work and strengthening Jigsaw's nutrition programme for the children most at risk, pray that they remain centred on Jesus and continue sharing God's love in all they do.*

Take Time to Pray

Mission Prayer Diary 12th to 18th April

Barnabas Aid

Barnabas 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.

Borno State is home to some of the most notorious terrorist groups in the world. Nobody in this Muslim-majority region is safe, but the Islamists have particular relish for slaughtering Christians.

Barnabas Aid's project partners report that Christian communities are among those who have suffered "repeated terrorist attacks, destruction of livelihoods, poor infrastructure and denial of government development support".

Their partners propose to meet the needs of pastors and Christian evangelists. Beneficiaries will receive "spiritual counselling and basic trauma support" alongside piglets, pig feed, water containers, materials for building a pigpen and training to enable them to "rebuild livelihoods, helping restore dignity and confidence in an environment where Christians frequently feel threatened or rejected".

- *Please bless this work for those who live amidst the chaos of Islamist terrorism and violence. Please protect them, the wider Christian community in Borno State, as well as all those who only want to live in peace and safety.*

Take Time to Pray

Mission Prayer Diary 19th to 25th April

St Luke's Healthcare for Clergy

St Luke's are deeply committed to supporting and advocating for clergy wellbeing. They believe that investing in clergy wellbeing isn't a luxury – it is the foundation for sustainable ministry.

Their vision is simply:

Flourishing Clergy → Healthy Church → Transformed Communities

Over the past year, Dr Tim Ling had the privilege of listening to many of the beneficiaries, diocesan colleagues, and partners across the Church. Their message has been consistent: timely, independent, and trusted talking therapy is essential for clergy and their families, especially during periods of strain or transition. This made it clear that 2026 must be a year of strengthening, simplifying, and expanding what St Luke's can offer.

They have begun shaping the next phase of the talking therapy service: faster access where clinically appropriate, clearer signposting when others are better placed to help, and a stronger evidence base for the wider Church. The aim for 2026 is faster, simpler access – and signposting elsewhere when appropriate.

- *Please pray for smooth recruitment of a new Clinical Quality and Learning Lead and that this role strengthens the service delivery to ensure clergy receive consistently high-quality care wherever they serve.*
- *Prayers for the growing partnership with Clergy Support Trust (CST), to help ensure clergy receive the right support at the right time.*

Take Time to Pray

Mission Prayer Diary 26th April to 2nd May

African Pastors Fellowship

African Pastors Fellowship is a UK charity working alongside church and community leaders in Africa: training, equipping and resourcing the local African church so communities might be transformed.

Dr Rose Mugabi is an APF trustee from Uganda. She recently returned from Kapsabet in western Kenya, where she visited St Paul's Theological College and met the principal Ven. Elizabeth Cheruiyot to monitor how the college is using the support it receives from APF.

Rose writes: Investing in the Future of the Church in Kenya African Pastors Fellowship has been strengthening digital learning and access to learning resources at St Paul's Theological College for six years. When I visited in November, the impact of this long-term investment was evident across the campus.

- *Pray that as the church continues to grow rapidly, often outpacing the availability of trained leaders, theological colleges like St Paul's will continue to play a vital role in equipping pastors, evangelists, and teachers who can serve their congregations with wisdom, integrity, and strong biblical grounding.*
- *Give thanks for the striking improvements at St Paul's in ICT support and digital literacy.*

Tales from the Towpath

Hello Everyone,

It has been a busy month of me! Even though there is not a lot of boat movement just yet there seems to have been a lot of help needed anyway.

We have recruited a new Chaplain in our Staffordshire Hub so I met her last week and did a towpath walk with her as part of her induction. She will probably cover the Penkridge area but she will be helping me this week with some 'lock assisting' so she will be getting to know the Trent and Mersey in Stone and Stoke as we help a disabled boater through the locks. We also have another recruit going through the recruitment process so hopefully he will cover Great Haywood – it will be good to have them both on the team.



I have been doing telephone calls to initiate PIP (Personal Independence payments) claims, speaking to CRT (Canal & River Trust) about boat licences, attending Universal Credit appointments, taking people to the doctors, helping shopping, visiting foodbanks and transporting to hospital appointments. Helping a boater in Armitage I discovered a really lovely café just near the canal – superb cakes!! (Tuppenhurst Farm- yummy!!)

I did a talk for the Women's Friendship Group in Oulton which was great fun. I also attended a WWC Regional Training Day held in Chester. We heard some interesting talks – from CRT about benefits and from an army veteran about 'moral injury', as well as a chance to get together and talk to other chaplains.



Please pray for all those using our waterways.
God bless.

Helen 16/3/26

Watt-a-Lot Castle Holiday Club

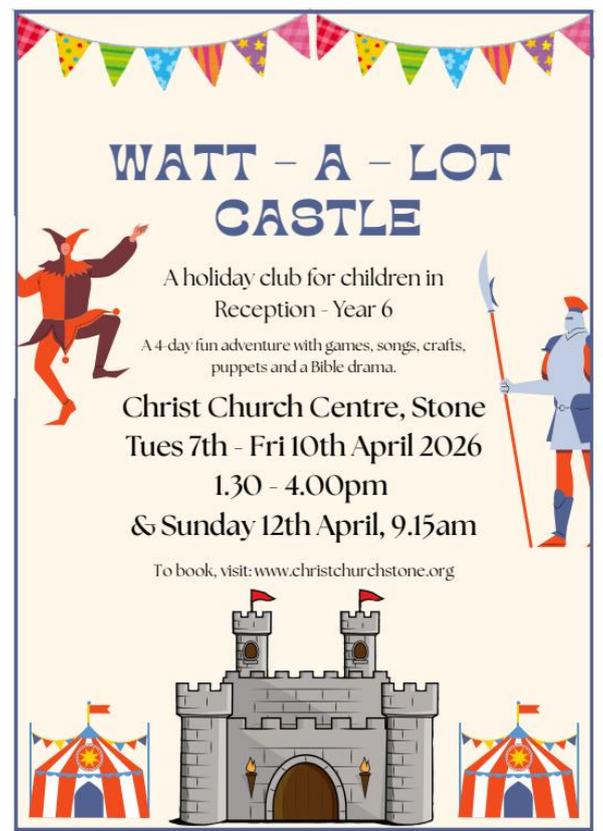
What is Watt-a-Lot Castle Holiday Club?

Watt-a-Lot Castle Holiday Club is a 4-day fun event for children aged 5 – 11 years run by volunteers from Christ Church, Stone and Oulton Church. We aim to teach the children some basic Christian values whilst having a great time together. To get the most out of it, the children are encouraged to come on all four afternoons, as the event follows a programme of Bible teaching and drama that follows through as the Club progresses, but children can also join in for shorter periods if they can't come every day.

The children can be safely left in our care; all volunteers have DBS certificates and parents are not required to stay. Each child will be placed into a small group, based on age, with dedicated leaders who will be responsible for him or her throughout the afternoon. However, not all of the time is spent in this small group, as there are some activities that all the children participate in together. During a typical afternoon we will have times of singing action songs, doing quizzes, learning together from drama, puppets and activity sheets, making things, playing games, and having refreshments. There is no time to be bored!

The Club culminates in a special Holiday Club service at Christ Church on the Sunday morning, preceded by a breakfast to which all family members are invited. During this service we will review what the children have learnt and get a flavour of the fun they have been having during the week. We do hope that your children would like to be part of this adventure!

If you have any questions, please ring the Church Office on 01785 811990 or Sue Kingman on 01785 812669 who will be happy to answer them.



World Day of Prayer

This year's World Day of Prayer was held at St Dominic's church on Friday 6 March. The service was produced by Christians in Nigeria. The occasion was well supported and all those attending heard very moving stories of insecurity, marginalisation, despair, poverty and abuse - all of which were faced and overcome by a living faith and prayer.

Next year is the centenary of World Day of Prayer (formerly Women's World Day of Prayer) and the theme will be "United in Prayer for Justice and Peace". Next year's service will be held in around 150 countries on **Friday 5 March 2027**. Why not put the date in your diary - it'll be an afternoon well spent.

Shirley Hallam

I attended the World Day of Prayer Service on Friday afternoon at 2.00pm along with others from Christ Church, as well as many people I met for the first time. Everyone was very friendly and there was a natural flow to the service, with a narrator and leaders in prayer following each story.

The particular focus was on the country of Nigeria and was prepared by Christian women from there. In one part of the prayer booklet a lady called Jato, a Christian mother from Northern Nigeria tells her story. In this part of the country Christians live under the shadow of religious persecution. Many are killed simply for their faith. Christians are regularly kidnapped and killed by a group called Boko Haram. In February 2018, they took a group of girls from a secondary school in Dapchi. After a month of federal negotiations, all were released except for Leah who refused to convert. Leah was only 14 years old. A young girl steadfast in her faith, refusing to deny Christ even in the face of captivity.

Having prayed over the Open Doors booklet citing the top 50 countries in the world where persecution of Christians is most rife, I have to say that Nigeria is one of the most difficult countries to practice your Christian faith, with more martyrs for Christ being recorded there than nearly any other country in that top 50.

Is it not time that we earnestly pray for the Nigerian women and their families for their deliverance from such evil?

Stephen Pickstock

Thy Kingdom Come 2026

Thy Kingdom Come 14th -24th May 2026

Thy Kingdom Come (TKC) is a global ecumenical prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus.

Since it began in May 2016, God has grown TKC from a dream of possibility into a movement which unites more than a million Christians in prayer, in nearly 90% of countries worldwide, across 85 different denominations and traditions- so that friends and family, neighbours and colleagues might come to faith in Jesus Christ.



This year’s Thy Kingdom Come is all about the presence of God through His spirit.

The God who is with us in the everyday – in the joys and sorrows of life (and everything in between) and the One who, through His spirit, longs to reveal Himself to those who do not yet know Him.

Resources will be available in church nearer the date, but you can start to think about five family member, friends or colleagues that you would like to pray for. That they will come to know Jesus as their saviour.

More information can be found at www.thykingdomcome.global

Everyday Faith



Everyday Faith is a series of reflections, prayers and stories to help you find and follow God in everyday life.

Everyday Faith is the daily devotional app from the Church of England designed to inspire, equip and encourage you in your faith every day of the week. The app forms part of one of the Church of England’s objectives of missional discipleship: *“To become a church of missionary disciples where all God’s people are free to live the Christian life, wherever we spend our time Sunday to Saturday.”*

The app's development is also a response to overwhelming user demand for an app that delivers inspirational reflections year-round, rather than focusing exclusively on our seasonal content during Lent and Advent. We wanted to create a space encouraging Christians to grow in their faith daily.

Everyday Faith is about where and how we encounter God in our daily lives. Where is God in our daily lives? How do we find God in the fullness of everyday life? Whether you wish to develop your faith or support others in theirs, Everyday Faith is designed to support you in your life discipleship, or vocational journey.

The app will provide you with carefully curated daily reflections, including selected Bible readings, a simple prayer to prepare you for the day ahead, and thoughts based on that week's theme.

Children's Society Boxes – 2025/6

Thank you to all who gave so generously to the Society through the box collection. £227.80p has been sent to them.

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

Young people today are facing huge challenges

Over the past year many of us have struggled with the pressure of the rising cost of living.

It is a scandal that more than 1 in 4 children in the UK are living in poverty and the cost-of-living crisis is putting thousands more at risk. Your continued collections make such a difference. Despite the difficulties of the last few years, house box collections like yours have helped to raise more than £1million for young people who need support and right now they have never needed it more.

Because a future of hope and happiness belongs to every child.

Thank you for helping to make that possible.

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

Sandra Morray - Children's Society

A Special Celebration

Sunday 1 March saw the celebration of a rather unusual anniversary. On behalf of the congregation the vicar presented Brenda Boote with a large bouquet as she reached a unique milestone - 90 years membership of Christ church.

We all send our love and gratitude to Brenda for her service during this amazing number of years.

Shirley Hallam

Dear Friends,
 What a lovely surprise on Sunday morning to be presented with a most beautiful bouquet of Spring flowers on the occasion of my 90th Birthday.
 Christ Church has always been a huge part of my life and I feel really blessed to have been able to worship here amongst dear friends for so many years.
 God bless and thank you.
 Jan Brenda.



Bishop Michael to retire in September 2026

After ten years as Bishop of Lichfield, the Rt Revd Dr Michael Ipgrave has chosen St Chad's Day, 2 March, to announce his intention to retire. HM the King has graciously given his permission for him to resign the See of Lichfield at the end of September 2026 when he will have been ordained for



44 years. Bishop Michael shared the news with clergy and lay ministers gathered to celebrate St Chad's Day in Lichfield Cathedral late on Monday afternoon, 2 March. It was ten years exactly since his nomination as 99th Bishop of Lichfield.

Announcing his retirement plans, Bishop Michael referred to the constant inspiration of St Chad over his ten years, describing himself as "humbled to be amongst one of the successors of St Chad, our first and greatest bishop." He continued, commending Chad's example: "Chad was the first to bring to Mercia the life-giving, peace-making, soul-restoring gospel of Jesus Christ. As we face the challenge of re-evangelising our contemporary Mercia, I am convinced that we can only do that by walking in his steps of kindness, friendliness and humility in the service of others."

In these last months of his ministry, Bishop Michael will be as occupied with this work just as he has been for the last ten years. It will be both business as usual and continuing to lay the foundations of the diocesan strategy for the coming few years. It will also include many opportunities for people across Lichfield Diocese to meet Bishop Michael before he leaves.

Speaking about his time in Lichfield Diocese and thanking those who share the task of ministry across the 1800 square miles of the diocese in 423 parishes and over 500 churches, in every community of Staffordshire, North Shropshire and the Black Country, Bishop Michael observes: "I know that I have been blessed over the last ten years to work in one of the friendliest, most down to earth and least pretentious parts of the Church of England; thank you from my heart."

Responding to the announcement, the Rt Revd Jan McFarlane, Dean of Lichfield, said: “The time for farewells is, thankfully, some months’ away but as Bishop Michael prepares to retire we know already just how very much he will be missed. In the leading of our Diocese our Bishop has modelled true servant leadership, as a prayerful, wise and learned teacher and pastor. We will always remember his openness and honesty following the death of his son, Frank, when even in the very depths of his bereavement he courageously shared with us what he’d learned of God. A prayerful Bishop who loves God and loves his flock is a true gift. We will be holding Bishop Michael and Julia in our prayers as they prepare to say their farewells to a diocese they’ve served with distinction.”



(Article from Diocese of Lichfield Website 2/3/26)

From the Diocese

Early Butterflies

April is a lovely month to start searching for butterflies as quite a few of those which are often seen in churchyards, chapel yards or cemeteries are on the wing by now. Some species emerge from overwintering as adults, often looking a bit faded and battered, you’ll need to wait until summer to see the newly emerged, resplendent adults. You may find Peacocks and Red Admirals, feeding on flowers prior to egg-laying. Both of these spectacular butterflies lay eggs on nettles. Look for the Comma, with its distinctive wing shape, its upper wings coloured orange with black markings whilst its underwings, visible when closed, are well camouflaged to disappear amongst dead leaves. Comma caterpillars also feed on nettles. Another butterfly that overwinters is the Brimstone, the male showing a characteristic yellow colour, the female more of a pale greenish yellow. It is thought the name butterfly comes from this species – a butter-coloured fly!

Other butterflies start emerging from pupation in April. These will look smart compared to those that have over-wintered, with bright colours and their wings un battered at least at first. Have a look for the Holly Blue, known as the churchyard butterfly. This delicate blue butterfly will be seen in tree canopies, so you'll need to look up! Four species from the same family, the Whites and Yellows can be seen, green-veined white, large white, small white and orange tip. Both small and large whites are nicknamed 'cabbage whites' by gardeners as their caterpillars can devour both brassicas and nasturtiums. The green-veined white is less of a villain for gardeners, it's caterpillars, like that of the Orange Tip, feed on a variety of wild plants including cuckoo-flower, hedge mustard and garlic mustard.

Burial grounds are usually a mix of shady woodland areas and sunny grassland, and the butterflies found reflect both habitats and in particular, the scrubby edges between them containing coarse grasses, shrubs, nettles and brambles. Look for Speckled Wood emerging in April, its caterpillars feed on coarse grasses. If you'd like to encourage butterflies then leave some nettles in full sun, whilst you may not wish to encourage nettles is there a place where they already occur? When planting trees, shrubs or flowers please use native species and include buckthorn or alder buckthorn, both food plants of the Brimstone.

Perhaps most importantly, allow some areas to be a little bit scruffy particularly over winter. Leave some rough vegetation and dead stems as well as piles of autumn leaves, until all creatures that have been sheltering, hibernating and pupating have emerged into the spring sunshine.

As always, we'd love to hear about any butterflies you see.

All the best, Harriet

Harriet Carty, *Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor*, harriet@cfga.org.uk,



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/>

Easter prayer for peace

Father, we call upon the prince of peace, the Lord Jesus Christ to keep the whole world in a place of peace despite all these challenges. We know that we find peace in you. A peace beyond understanding, a peace that at times doesn't make sense to others. This Easter, O King of glory, let peace overtake our fears and our worries. Let peace and faith arise in us anew, and draw us ever close to the prince of peace. Amen



Ingestre Hall

One morning recently, having just enjoyed a coffee at Great Haywood's Canalside Café, Helen and I decided to drive over to the adjacent Ingestre Estate as we had not visited before. Not knowing quite what to expect, we were surprised by the size of the Estate and the magnificence of the buildings – well worth a visit.



The Estate has been the home of two significant Staffordshire families – the Chetwynds and the Talbots. The magnificent Jacobean mansion {much haunted apparently} was built by the Chetwynds in 1683 to replace an older original building which had been destroyed by fire. Some years earlier, a dispute between the Chetwynds and the Sheriff of Stafford had resulted in the murder of Sir William Chetwynd ! The current church was added to the Estate in 1673, again replacing an earlier building. It is the only church built and designed outside London by Sir Christopher Wren. A fairly stark exterior hides a fabulous interior.

Sir Christopher Wren and Walter Chetwynd were both members of the Royal Society and were friends at Oxford University. An architectural drawing of 'Mr Chetwynd's Tower' annotated in Wren's handwriting is preserved in the Victoria and Albert Museum. Much of the internal woodwork is ascribed to Grinling Gibbons who worked with Wren on St. Paul's Cathedral.

In 1959, the 21st Earl of Shrewsbury, a Chetwynd – Talbot, sold the Estate and it is now used for various activities. The Hall is now owned by Sandwell Metropolitan Council as a residential arts centre, the Orangery is used for wedding receptions and the Stables contain a riding school. The church is open to the public, but not the Hall or Orangery .

Something to ponder – the Earl of Shrewsbury also owned Alton Towers – how wealthy must such people have been !

John Bowes

EVERYBODY WELCOME

in Christ Church Centre,
Stone, ST15 8ZB

10:00 – 12:00

April 4th, May 2nd, June 6th, July 4th,
August 1st, September 5th 2026

FREE COFFEE, TEA AND CAKE



N.B. These dates are provisional – volunteers are needed for each date – please let the office know if you can help this important outreach work!

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,
Shelagh Sanders
Pete Kelly
Lynda Marenghi

Secretary

Treasurer

Envelopes, Gift Aid

FLOWER ROTA		WELCOMER	
5 th April	Easter Donations	5 th April	Jeanette Rowlands
12 th April		12 th April	Barbara Sutcliffe
19 th April		19 th April	Jacqueline Abrahams
26 th April	Shirley Hallam	26 th April	Marilyn Overall
CHURCH REGISTERS	BAPTISMS		
	WEDDINGS		
	FUNERALS		
	12 th March	Joanna Eccles	Aged 57

Roads for Prayer

<p>6th April Princes Square Queens Square Radford Close Radford Street</p>	<p>13th April Rangeley View Regent Street Rendell Close Rolt Close</p>
<p>20th April Rudyard Close Saltersford Rise Sawyer Way Station Road</p>	<p>27th April Stonefield Court Stonefield Square The Avenue The Crescent</p>

