

Christ Church Magazine

May 2026



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
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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 –
‘Bluebells’ by Helen

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



Magazine 40p each month or if you pay for a whole year it is 12 copies for the price of 10! (£4.00) 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 there,

Gosh it has been a year now since I took on the role as Editor of the Christ Church Magazine – time does fly!!! Thank you to everyone who has submitted articles and photographs for our interest and enjoyment. Please do keep sending in articles of interest, news stories, photos – all to make an interesting read and to keep us well informed about Church events. This month we have news from the Holiday Club which was a great success – I really enjoyed the end of Holiday Club service last Sunday – it showed everyone had had a very good time and learned lots. Well done to the team of helpers – I know it is very hard work. We have our usual article from the Diocese of Lichfield sent to us each month by Simon Jones, the Creative Media producer for the Diocese. John has come up with some memories from a holiday (in 1976!) to the Holy Land and Towpath Tales keep coming. Thanks to updates from Maryanne about ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ prayer initiative and to Carole Stone for the hard work putting the Mission Prayer Diary together. Do tell others about the **321 course** starting on the **3rd May** at the Vicarage – spread the word!! Also do come to the **Trains in the Garden** event on **May 16th** (see p21) and thanks to Sandra for the update on the great work done by the team of helpers in the Christ Church Toddler Group (p14). Enjoy reading,
Helen

From the Vicarage.....

The One and the many.

Well, that’s Easter over and done with, isn’t it? Well, that’s not an entirely true statement! For each Sunday is a minis Easter celebrating the risen Jesus which is why Christians across the globe meet on a Sunday. The One continues to have an impact on the many.

Meanwhile, the marketing of chocolate easter eggs has had its day so the food companies are onto the next event. This is most likely Saint George’s Day (23rd April marking his execution for refusing to persecute Christians in 303AD). These two events mark the historic death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and how his followers have been inspired to serve him even when it involves self-sacrificial acts. It’s been rightly said that if you haven’t got anything worth dying for then you won’t have anything worth living for.

From the Vicarage.....

Locally we want to pass on the good news of the One, the risen Jesus Christ who reigns in heaven as our king, even at personal cost. We serve him with gratitude and loyalty.

In the New Testament it records the ongoing life and work of ‘the body of Christ’. It sounds such a strange expression, but it describes his followers: *‘Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many’* [1 Corinthians 12v12-14].

We’ve seen an example of this recently in running our children’s holiday club during the school Easter break. A large team gave up their time and energy to run a fabulous week to learn more about what it means to follow Jesus. Each leader can speak of the way in which Jesus has touched their own lives and included us in his ongoing ministry. This is far more than just teamwork. For the One unites the many. A personal knowledge of the risen Jesus is the real motivator such service.

We hope that you can move on from reading these words that I write each month to exploring more and experience what it means to be part of the body of Christ.

If you would like to know more and do not have a modern language Holy Bible, then please ask me to get one to you to read. You will then be able to discover how to know God personally, through the risen Jesus, the Son of God.

Paul Kingman
May 2026



Saturday 16th May Trains in the garden

this year in aid of Jigsaw Kids Charity, which as a church we support, will be held on the afternoon of **Saturday 16th May from 2pm**. Train rides for young and old! For more information - See also P 21.



Christ Church Diary

May 2026

	Date	Time	Events (Zoom codes in weekly email)
Fri	1st		
Sat	2nd	8.30 am	Prayer meeting followed by breakfast
Sun	3rd	9.15 am 5.00 pm	Communion; 1 Corinthians 1: 26-31 "A humbled people" 3-2-1 study course at the Vicarage (1 of 4)
Mon	4th		<i>Bank Holiday</i>
Tue	5th	10.30 am 12.30 pm	Communion; Luke 6: 1-16 "Law keeper" Pursuit Club Christ Church Academy
Wed	6th	9.00 am 2.00 pm	Christ Church First School assembly Trekks
Thu	7th	1.10 pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	8th		
Sat	9th		
Sun	10th	9.15 am 5.00 pm	Morning Prayer; 1 Corinthians 2: 1-16 "A wise people" 3-2-1 study course at the Vicarage (2 of 4)
Mon	11th	9.30 am	Toddler group
Tue	12th	10.30 am 12.30 pm 2.00 pm	Communion; Luke 6: 17-26 "His life" Pursuit Club Christ Church Academy Autumn House — Church at Home service
Wed	13th	9.00 am 2.30 pm 3.30 pm	Christ Church First School assembly Oulton Abbey — Church at Home service Trekks
Thu	14th	11.00 am 1.10 pm	St. Mary's Home — Church at Home service Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	15th		
Sat	16th	2.00 pm	Trains in the garden

Christ Church Diary

May 2026

	Date	Time	Events (Zoom codes in weekly email)
Sun	17th	9.15 am 5.00 pm	Communion; 1 Corinthians 3: 1-14 "A truthful people" 3-2-1 study course at the Vicarage (3 of 4)
Mon	18th	9.30 am	Toddler group
Tue	19th	10.30 am	Communion; Luke 6: 27-36 "His challenge"
Wed	20th	9.00 am 2.00 pm	Christ Church First School assembly Trekks
Thu	21st	1.10 pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	22nd		
Sat	23rd		
Sun	24th	9.15 am	Pentecost All age; 1 Corinthians 4: 1-5 "A faithful people"
Mon	25th		<i>Bank Holiday and Schools Half Term Holiday all week</i>
Tue	26th	10.30 am	Communion; Luke 11: 1-13 "His promise of the spirit"
Wed	27th		
Thu	28th		
Fri	29th		
Sat	30th		
Sun	31st	9.15 am 5.00 pm	Trinity Morning Prayer; 1 Corinthians 4: 6-21 "A trinitarian people" 3-2-1 study course at the Vicarage (4 of 4)

Take Time to Pray

Mission Prayer Diary 3rd to 9th May

Mission Aviation Fellowship

In 1945, inspired by their Christian faith, MAF's founders decided to use their flying and engineering skills to deliver help, hope and healing to the world's most isolated people. 80 years later, their legacy lives on...

Happy 60th birthday MAF Chad! Since 1966, MAF's been serving Chad's most isolated people such as the Teda in the Sahara. Their language had never been published until linguist Mark Ortman arrived. For 30 years, Mark – enabled by MAF – has developed the Teda alphabet and transformed education.

➤ *Give thanks for Mark and Esmara – MAF's youngest country director – who are changing lives.*

Supporting child refugees in Uganda: Nearly 2 million refugees – over half of them children – are now living in Uganda, which has the largest refugee population in Africa. But faced with the largest aid cuts in history, Uganda's child refugees are suffering. Ruth Jack – MAF's Africa Director, and Rosemary Khamati from PEACE International are working together to support these vulnerable children.

➤ *Please pray for the support to continue to make a difference to the lives of these children.*



Take Time to Pray

Mission Prayer Diary 10th to 16th May

Midlands Gospel Partnership

MGP is a partnership of Midlands churches, of which the Benefice of Christ Church and Oulton with Moddershall is one. Membership is open to any church in the Midlands which subscribes to MGP's doctrinal basis and shares their convictions about the shape of gospel ministry.

The Midlands Men's Convention is taking place on Saturday 16th May at Monyhull Church in Birmingham. The theme is Living and Active – Building Your Life on the Word of God.

- *Please pray for the leaders of the conference and everyone who attends to enjoy the day and learn how to involve God more in their daily lives.*

The Midlands Ministry Training Course is practical training for Biblical Ministry. It is a one day a week training course designed to help men and women understand and teach the Bible. Its purpose is to provide Christian believers in the Midlands with Bible training in Bible-teaching.

- *Give thanks for the work of this training course, Paul Mallard, one of the leaders and pray for the commitment of the participants.*



Take Time to Pray

Mission Prayer Diary 17th to 23rd May

Church Mission Society – Eric and Rhena Clouston

Eric and Rhena work in Bangalore, India. They help people to get to know God and serve others through Bible study, theology training, pastoral care and working with Asia-CMS.

Church Mission Society is called to connect with people at the edges: the edges of church, the edges of society, the edges of our comfort zones. They're always looking for others who will join them at edges near and far, to help share God's love in creative ways, knowing that person-by-person, community-by-community, our world will be made new.

- *Pray for on-going support for local leaders in South Asia as they connect with people who have never heard of Jesus*

CMS is made up of disciples of Jesus from various countries, cultural backgrounds and walks of life. They are a vibrant mix of people in mission from the UK, Africa, Latin America, Europe, the Middle East and Asia – all following Jesus to the edges together.

- *Our prayers are needed to help keep these disciples safe so that communities and society are transformed as new disciples participate in the life and work of Jesus in our world.*
- *Pray for the support for local leaders in Asia as they connect with people who have never heard of Jesus*



Take Time to Pray

Mission Prayer Diary 24th to 30th May

FEBA Radio

Feba is passionate about the creative use of radio and other audio media to inspire people to follow Jesus Christ, with a particular focus on some of the world's least-reached and hardest-to-reach people groups, across Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

Feba ask us to join them as they give thanks for the way God has faithfully provided for Feba's ministry over the last year.

- *Praise Him for answered prayer as new staff have joined, generous support has been received, and listeners are being reached with the love of Jesus.*

As summer approaches, the Supporter Engagement Team are preparing for upcoming events like Big Church Festival and The Church Sound and Media Summit.

- *Please pray for Emily as she manages Feba's involvement in these events. Ask that their presence would bless attendees and inspire them to get involved with all God is doing through radio and audio media.*

The International Ministry team who have been busy travelling to visit various partners at the start of the year.

- *Ask that they would have time to rest, and that the strong relationships we have with our partners would continue to grow as we work together to share God's love in Africa, Asia and the Middle East.*



Take Time to Pray

Mission Prayer Diary 31st May to 6th June

Simeon's Trustees

Simeon's Trustees are a leading and long-standing Church of England patronage trust, with patronage interests in 166 benefices across 33 dioceses. Their main role is working when a benefice has a vacancy, but they also give ongoing prayer support for parishes and clergy.

Simeon's Trustees work with PCCs and the Diocesan leadership to discern who should be appointed as the next incumbent or priest-in-charge, listening to the Lord and local churches for Spirit led appointments.

They have an involvement in the decisions about pastoral re-organisation to benefices. They pray regularly for our churches through their prayer diary and local contacts. They provide pastoral support to our clergy, contacting them at various points during the year.

- *Eternal God, who raised up Charles Simeon to preach the good news of Jesus Christ and inspire your people in service and mission: grant that we with all your Church may worship the Saviour, turn in sorrow from our sins and walk in the way of holiness; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen*



Letter from FEBA

Dear Paul,

I just wanted to touch base and say hello! **Feba** came and visited your church last year and we enjoyed a lovely morning together learning more about our ministry partners.

Thank you!

When we visited, your congregation wrote

some beautiful messages of

hope to our global partners which we sent to them all. We have now had some responses from them and I wanted to share these with you so you can share with your congregation as a thank you, and an encouragement to them to continue to pray. Your prayers are having such an impact and our partners are so very grateful for all the love and support they receive. It spurs them on and is such an encouragement to them in their ministries.

Please find attached these responses.

Pray with us!

While I am here, I just wanted to take another opportunity to invite you to join us at our monthly prayer meeting. These take place via Zoom on the first Wednesday of every month, from 7-8pm. We have an opportunity each month to meet with a different partner and to hear their stories and pray for them. This month we will be meeting our partner from The Sparrow Project in Northeast Africa. Simply share this link with your congregation: [An invitation to join us in prayer | Feba](#)

I also wanted to apologies that I have not yet sent you information for your church newsletter. Please can you remind me what it is you would like?

Thank you again.

With every blessing to you all,
Emily



Thy Kingdom Come

Thy Kingdom Come 14th -24th May 2026.

God With Us

Hopefully, you have been thinking about the five family members, friends or colleagues that you would like to pray for during this time.

Prayer journals will be available in all churches across the benefice from the 3rd of May. They are the same format as last year, a short reflection for each day with the focus on praying 'Come Holy Spirit' not only for ourselves, but for those whom God wants to meet.

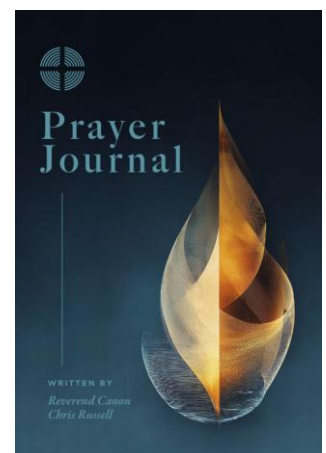
It is a humbling experience to be part of a praying community. To know that for these ten days we are reading and praying in unison not only across the benefice but also with brothers and sisters around the world!

If you use social media there is a Thy Kingdom Come Facebook page. You can also download the Church of England's Everyday Faith app.

We have also produced a child friendly pack of resources.

More information can be found at

www.thykingdomcome.global



Parent and Toddler Group

The group meets on Monday morning in the centre 9.30 to 11.30am during term time. It's a great group of young parents and grandparents, sharing experiences and helping each other.

We have a good variety of toys, books, jigsaws, climbing frame, trampoline and a craft activity so if you're a toddler it's the place to be.

We continue to support a child from China, Zhang Ya Ge and also the family worker Peter Cuthbert. We encourage mums to take their older children along to the after-school clubs. We give out information about activities in our church such as Christingle and Good Friday crafts and we are encouraged that some families do turn up to these. (cont. p 15)

Parent and Toddler Group (cont)

We have an annual event which is Trains in the Garden. This is a very popular event, thanks to Pete and Liz Mason who turn their garden into an amazing railway where the children watch and even drive the trains. I am already asked when the next one is - not long now. This is very well supported by the families and we give a donation to Jigsaw.

Peter continues to tell the children a story from the bible with lots of actions and joining in, which they enjoy.

Toddlers is well supported, everyone enjoying the morning, finishing with singing which is great fun.

I would like to say a huge thank you to all the team who help to run the toddler group. It would not work without their support and fellowship.

Christ Church Toddler Group is thriving, long may it continue to do so.

Please pray for all young children and their families who come.

Sandra and the team

From the Diocese

Opportunity - Exploring attitudes to and uses for money in our series Gratitude, Hope and Opportunity

Visions, goals, strategies: they're key to helping our churches move together into the future, to God's glory. These words can be a distraction, but a vision is just how and where we want to be in the future, goals are just waypoints: things we want to see on our journey: they may lie ahead or we may have passed them, reassured that we are on track. Strategy is just the plan or the map we follow. We shouldn't get bamboozled by words.

Money can also bamboozle us. Strategies provide choices about the future we want to live in: money provides opportunities to make choices. Sometimes money's presence or absence appears to be the deciding factor, or we make it that, not God or us together with God.

When it comes to money, the anxieties are often to do with not knowing what to do with it or not knowing where to find it. There is often the sense that 'if only' we had more, 'we could...'. Sometimes, an unexpected gift or legacy places the opposite problem: 'what we could do now, so many possibilities.' We seem

From the Diocese (cont)...

often to be besieged with opportunities either those we can't afford or those we can't choose between.

Opportunities and choices together give us a future when yielded to God. They give us the courage to work with what we have, not what we hope for, because we recognise that it is God's resource we are using not our own and that he has provided, is providing and will provide what we need to move forward.

So a strategy is something that uses God-given talents and God-given resources to bring new life. Money too, is a God given resource that can help create opportunities to be living bread and water to others. Money and strategy have the power to confound or to bless. The way to demystify both is to put them together, prayerfully and with eyes open.

The opportunity before us all, in Lichfield Diocese now, is to embark on a journey together: the Seeking the Kingdom journey where we have chosen to prefer growth to decline and recognised that we can grow into the future through feeding our faith, supporting our ministry and building up our parishes and communities. We can grow by being better at being church, together. These choices are the choices before us in Seeking the Kingdom, supported in the consultations across the four episcopal areas last autumn. Our opportunity, simply put, is to express the values of God's Kingdom in our churches, in our communities and in our lives so that we can bring the life in all its fullness that Jesus Christ came to give us and so that we can become his hands, feet and body.

As we embark on a shared path, we stop spending our resources on distractions and may find we have enough to put towards the task at hand: inhabiting the future that God calls us into: his Kingdom.

David Wright is Chair of the Diocesan Board of Finance

For more on our strategy, Seeking the Kingdom

visit: www.lichfield.anglican.org/our-vision

[For more on our strategy, Seeking the Kingdom visit: www.lichfield.anglican.org/our-vision](http://www.lichfield.anglican.org/our-vision)

Lamentations 3:22-23 ~ The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

Tales from the Towpath

Hello Everyone,

Spring is here, the sun is shining and boats are on the move so I guess I will be getting busier. Mind you – this month has been pretty busy anyway!!



I attended a Water Safety Course down by the canal in Birmingham at Farmer's Bridge locks – right in the city centre in the area known as Gas Street Basin where the old navigations of the Worcester and Birmingham Canal and the Birmingham Canal Navigations (BCN) Main Line meet. Back in 1773 when the BCN was completed, the BCN insisted on a physical barrier, known as the Worcester Bar, being built between the two canals to prevent the Worcester and Birmingham Canal benefitting from their water. Cargoes has to be laboriously manhandled between the boats on either side!! A fascinating place! Anyway the water safety course was very good – although I already knew all about working locks I got to practice throwing safety lines and coiling ropes.



I took our new chaplain, Val, out on a towpath walk at Penkrige – we visited the chandlery there where the owner generously gave Val a windlass (used one!) which was helpful. The bridge and lock there has been closed for some time but hopefully is due to open soon so the boats can get moving again. While there I caught up with some boaters I had previously met here in Stone – sometimes it feels like a very small world! I met with another boater up in Stoke and we had a very good conversation about spiritual matters – always good to answer questions and help someone in their thinking about such things!

Tales from the Towpath (cont)



The start of the season for Canal Festivals and markets is now here! I attended the Great Haywood Floating Market on Easter Saturday and last Saturday the one at Rugeley. Good to catch up with the traders again this year – they were pleased to see me – good to let them know we are here when needed. The only problem is that I end up spending money!! Here are some pictures of the wonderful canal art items I have purchased for my garden. We also always enjoy eating at the Oatcake Boat, sitting in the sunshine (hopefully!)

The **Stone Canal Floating Market** is the same weekend as the Stone Food Festival – **May 9th/10th** - so do come along!

Here are details of others you may like to go to:-

May 2nd -4th Norbury Canal Festival

May 16th/17th Trentham Floating Market

May 16th/17th - Stafford Riverway Link
Community Event

May 30th/31st Etruria Boat Festival

June 13th/14th Middleport Pottery Canal Festival

June 20th/21st Armitage Floating Market

July 17th-19th Gnosall Canal Festival



As a last point of interest the Lockage reports for 2025 are out and although the water levels were low during last year Colwich Lock on the Trent & Mersey still came in as the second busiest lock in the country with 6034 movements. The Star Lock was number 18 with 2,972 movements as opposed to 4100 in 2024. Please pray for all those using our waterways.

God bless.

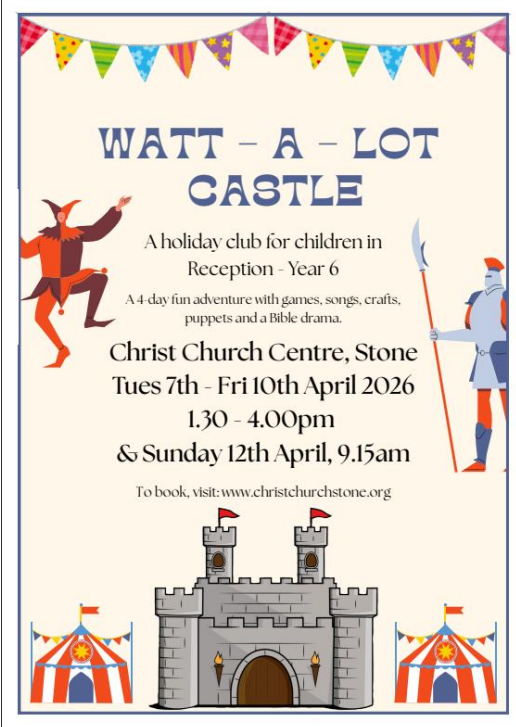
Helen 15/4/26

Watt-a-Lot Castle Holiday Club

'What happened at Watt-A-Lott Castle?

"I'm powerful because I love God!" said the child. He still had some crumbs on his mouth from the biscuit he has just eaten. He was coming out of a cardboard fortress that he and his new friends had been decorating. They had seen a puppet show and played games, but this was not any normal kids club. It was What-A-Lott Castle holiday club!

The Holiday club gave more than 20 children the chance to hear about God's kingdom and His values. From the 7th to the 12th of April Christ Church Stone staff and volunteers sought to create a space where Children could explore key characteristics of those who follow Jesus. The children played quizzes, coloured sheets, and made crafts. They also watched the exciting What-A-Lott-Family drama, where the brave knights Rick Squirt-A-Lott, Wendy Talk-A-Lott, and Grandma Knit-A-Lott were on a quest to save the What-A-Lott castle from Bad Guy Lie-A-Lott. Being motivated by God's love for children and young people, Christ Church Stone staff and volunteers organised all these activities to provide children with a fun and safe space where they not only could make friends and play games but also could hear about God's amazing character.



Many of the children who joined did not come from families that regularly attend church. However, they did seem to have enjoyed singing memory-verse songs and watching Bible drama sketches. With joy they sang "Don't get tired of doing good. No, no, no, no..." (Galatians 6:9), and they keenly followed the stories of Moses delivering God's message to Pharaoh, and Queen Esther saving

Watt-a-Lot Castle Holiday Club (cont.)

God's people from certain death. Members of the team delivered each day a short talk to further explore the meaning of these stories for the children. The Holiday Club also reached some of the families of the children. The church carried out an All-Age service on the Sunday of the Holiday club week using the material from it. The families were invited to have breakfast and join for the service – and several of them did! They heard an evangelistic message about Jesus being the servant king we all should follow, and they sang the same songs the children had been singing the whole week.

The Holiday Club aims to support the youth groups and Sunday school activities the church normally carries out. Please pray we will see new and returning faces following our adventures on

What-A-Lott-Castle.

Jorge Capera

(first time as a leader)



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/>

Trains in the Garden!

For the last 20 years we have hosted " Trains in the garden " at our house, on various dates in May and June - and it has never rained!

The event is an opportunity to get together, play trains, drive trains, eat cake, have a chat, catch up and invite friends to a church event, in a relaxed and fun atmosphere.

Behind the scenes, there is a great deal of preparation of track, carriages, signals and locos to ensure everything runs reliably and stays on the rails and to keep everybody safe.

We do not charge for tickets, but leave a couple of buckets out for visitors to make donations to our favourite charity, Jigsaw Kids which is run by Tim and Kate Lee who are originally from Stafford, where we met them many years ago, and most years they are able to join us for the afternoon and then to speak in church on the Sunday. They plan to be with us this year.

The charity does amazing work in Manilla in the Philippines, amongst children who literally have nothing, and it is a privilege to run the event to support such a special cause.

Our thanks go out to the extensive and committed team who help with everything from making numerous cups of tea and cold drinks in the kitchen to our station master, guards, signal man, track team and drivers - and the kids get to drive the battery trains as well - which are always popular!

This year we will be running on May 16th from 2 pm to 5 pm, so feel free to join us - and if you do come by car you are best parking as far away from our house as you can walk, as it gets quite busy!

Please Join us if you can and enjoy the sun!

The small print:- As the trains are running round the garden it is a "Sorry but No Dogs Event"

Pete and Liz



Even more Holy Land Musings

More reflections on our trip to Israel :-

Galilee – the coach from Tel Aviv passed many shattered military vehicles left over from the Six Day War in 1967. Eventually we descended into the Jordan Valley, the coach driver advising everybody to close the coach windows as we had just gone below sea level !! After a visit to a kibbutz, we were then taken to Tiberius on the Sea of Galilee, the world's lowest freshwater lake at 210 metres below sea level. Various miracles are reputed to have taken place here and we were taken on a boat to Capernaum, birthplace of Peter and where Jesus regularly preached. Galilee is overlooked by the infamous Golan Heights, captured by Israel from Syria. The Jordan flows out from the Sea of Galilee – a very small river, probably smaller than the Trent running through Stone !

The West Bank – more military hardware and a trip to Jericho and the Allenby Bridge over the Jordan. Various excavations have revealed the remains of biblical Jericho about 20 foot below ground level. Here there is also a gigantic refugee camp – thousands of small clay huts. The whole place was totally devoid of people, making for a rather eery atmosphere.

Masada and the Dead Sea – whilst I recovered from a stomach upset (I blamed a plate of cous cous), Helen went on a trip to Masada and the Dead Sea. Masada was one of the last strongholds of Jewish militants in the Jewish Rebellion (AD70) against the Romans. After holding out for a considerable time, the Romans built an immense ramp to the top of the mountain, only to find that all the occupants had committed suicide -approx. 1,000 people.

After scaling the heights, Helen was then seen swimming (or at least floating) in the Dead Sea – an amazing experience apparently.

Judean Wilderness, the Negev Desert and Eilat – a fascinating trip down south to Eilat on the Red Sea passing through the Negev Desert with the Mountains of Moab (Saudi Arabia) to the east and the Sinai Desert {Egypt} to the west. Calling points on the way – various military checkpoints, Lot's Wife and Solomon's Mines. In Eilat one had the chance to descend a spiral staircase built on a coral reef. Windows on the sea bed allowed one to view fish in their natural environment – an unforgettable experience, as was the whole holiday.

John Bowes



STUDY COURSE 2026

Discover Life According to Jesus in 3, 2, 1.

What do you make of Jesus?

He spoke as the King of heaven but served like the lowest slave.

He claimed to be the hope of the world yet gave up his life on the cross.

Have you ever wondered how Jesus saw the big issues – God, the world and you? Here's an introduction to the deepest Christian truths in an accessible way, through immersive videos and memorable illustrations. Take the opportunity to slow down, get your bearings and look again at the life of Jesus.

Here's Life According to Jesus in 3, 2, 1...

Sundays 5 p.m. The Vicarage	Topic
3 rd May	Introduction – Jesus our guide
10 th May	God's three-ness
17 th May	The world's two-ness
31 st May	Your one-ness



DISCOVER LIFE

ACCORDING TO JESUS

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	
3 rd May		3 rd May	Pete Kelly
10 th May	Val Ledward	10 th May	Pam Roberts
17 th May		17 th May	Jeanette Rowlands
24 th May	Marylyn Hillman	24 th May	Jacqueline Abrahams
31 st May		31 st May	Marilyn Overall
CHURCH REGISTERS	BAPTISMS	29 th March	George Neil Paterson
	WEDDINGS		
	FUNERALS		

Roads for Prayer

4th May	11th May
Trent Court	Victor Street
Trent Road	Victoria Street
Trinity Drive	Whitebridge lane
Tunley Street	York Street
18th May	25th May
Airdale Grove	Alexandra Street
Airdale Road	Alma Street
Airdale Spinney	Ancestry Close
Albert Street	Anderton View

