

Christ Church Magazine

July 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

Christ Church Academy, Old Road

Principal: Mrs Tara Thorn 01785 334900

Christ Church Magazine July 2026

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Committed to following Jesus. Commissioned to make Disciples



Front Cover –Our Welcome Bench - by Helen

Please send your articles for the August magazine to us by the 15th July



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,

A bit of a thinner magazine this month – we need more articles from YOU!!!! We are getting into holiday season so I am sure there could be some interesting stories about places you have visited! Or perhaps bible studies or talks you have found interesting. You may have visited other churches in your travels – always good to hear about.

Please do send in articles – we love to know what our church family are doing – hobbies, interests, events, trips – all will be good to read about. Meanwhile you have an extended tales from the Towpath, an interesting article about Chartley Castle, an opportunity to think about Pilgrimage and a forward date for your diary!!

Enjoy reading,
Helen

From the Vicarage.....

The World Cup

By the time you read this article the FIFA World Cup football will be near its final. The competition is regarded across the world as the most prestigious football competition. It is also the most widely viewed! In 2018 the viewing figures were estimated to be 3.57 billion, which is almost half the global population, while that for 2022 was 5 billion, with approximately 1.5 billion watching the final match. It has this time been jointly hosted by sixteen cities: 11 in the USA, 3 in Mexico, and 2 in Canada. The tournament is the first FIFA World Cup to be hosted by three nations, and the first to include 48 teams, an expansion from the previous 32.

The matches are full of tension, memorable action and deafening noise! By the end of the competition the winners will proudly be

From the Vicarage.....

presented with the "FIFA World Cup Trophy". This is the second trophy which was introduced in 1974 (the previous 'Victory' cup was stolen in 1983). It was made of 18 karat gold with bands of malachite on its base. It is 36.8 cm tall and weighs just over 6kg. It depicts two human figures holding up the Earth.

In Christian theology we have a world cup: the cup that Jesus drank. It was both a cup of suffering and a cup of victory.

The night before Jesus died on a cross, he spoke of having to drink the cup of suffering during a time of prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane. Here he wrestled with the cost involved and the goal to be achieved. The sheer horror of the cross led to Jesus shrinking back. But out of his perfect obedience he fulfilled God's will. For the bitter suffering of the cross was also the glorious victory of salvation. While the cup symbolised drinking down to the dregs God's righteous wrath on sin, it was also the means of defeating sin, death and evil. Jesus' sacrifice transformed the symbol of God's punishment on sin to become a symbol of His forgiveness and grace.

The two ideas are combined in the Lord's Supper. The bread and wine clearly spoke of his total self-giving in the plan of salvation. Forgiveness and reconciliation to God was made possible (he instituted a new covenant in his blood). But the Last Supper also spoke of the hope: *'I tell you, I will not drink from this fruit of the vine from now on until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom'* (Mt 26v29). Jesus is the one who offers us to share in his victory. Jesus drank the cup of suffering so that we can drink the cup of blessing.

You may have been totally engaged in watching the world cup competition. As the cup is lifted by the winning team, then remember Jesus' World Cup and be thankful.

Paul Kingman July 2026



Christ Church Diary July 2026

July 2026

	Date	Time	Events (Zoom codes in weekly email)
Wed	1st	9.15 am 3.30 pm	Christ Church First School assembly Trekks
Thu	2nd	1.15 pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	3rd		
Sat	4th	8.30 am	Prayer meeting followed by breakfast
Sun	5th	9.15 am 5.00 pm	Communion; Colossians 1: 9-14 "A challenging prayer" Gospel Love course at the Vicarage (5 of 9)
Mon	6th	9.30 am 7.30 pm	Toddler group PCC meeting in the centre
Tue	7th	10.30 am 12.30 pm	Communion; Luke 14: 15-24 "The great banquet" Pursuit Club Christ Church Academy
Wed	8th	9.15 am 3.30 pm 6.00 pm	Christ Church First School assembly Trekks Christ Church Academy celebration evening
Thu	9th	1.15 pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	10th		
Sat	11th		
Sun	12th	9.15 am 5.00 pm	Morning Prayer; Philippians 1: 9-11 "Overcoming hurdles" Gospel Love course at the Vicarage (6 of 9)
Mon	13th	9.30 am	Toddler group
Tue	14th	10.30 am 1.30 pm 2.30 pm	Communion; Luke 19: 1-10 "Zaccheus' surprise guest" Christ Church First School leavers service

Christ Church Diary July 2026

July 2026

	Date	Time	Events (Zoom codes in weekly email)
			Autumn House — Church at Home service
Wed	15th	2.30 pm	Oulton Abbey — Church at Home service
Thu	16th	11.00 am	St. Mary's Home — Church at Home service
Fri	17th	10.45 am	Christ Church Academy leavers service
Sat	18th		
Sun	19th	9.15 am	Communion; Ephesians 1: 15-23 "Praying to the Sovereign"
Mon	20th		<i>Schools Summer Holiday until September</i>
Tue	21st	10.30 am	Communion; Luke 22: 14-20 "The Last Supper"
Wed	22nd		
Thu	23rd		
Fri	24th		
Sat	25th		
Sun	26th	9.15 am	Morning Prayer; Ephesians 3: 14-21 "Praying for power"
Mon	27th		
Tue	28th	10.30 am	Communion; Luke 24: 13-35 "The village of Emmaus"
Wed	29th		
Thu	30th		
Fri	31st		

Take Time to Pray

Mission Prayer Diary 5th to 11th July

African Pastors Fellowship

The vision of the African Pastors Fellowship (APF) is to empower Christian leaders and enable effective ministry that brings community transformation through the local church.

Bikes for Pastors – Ministry on Two Wheels

Without any transport, dedicated pastors serving in rural Africa find it really hard to get to training courses and workshops. Bad roads and huge distances make accessing training difficult even when it is available.

APF helps by providing grants for bicycles to church leaders in rural communities. The bicycles are purchased locally and a small contribution by the beneficiary towards the cost of the bike builds a sense of ownership.

Pastor Ernest from Burundi used to walk for five hours from his home in Nyarurama District to Kayanza Town before boarding a bus heading towards his church in Ndengane. When he was unable to afford the bus fare he walked the whole way, a journey of nine hours. When he received a bicycle from APF, he was very happy. “I will not walk anymore! I will ride from my home to the church and I will spend just three hours travelling. It will save me 6,000 Burundian Francs (£2.70) every time I no longer have to use the bus. What’s more, I will also have energy when I get there and can expect to live more.”

- *Give thanks to APF for providing bicycles and pray for continuing dedication from the Pastors who are prepared to take such long journeys to share the word of God.*

Take Time to Pray

Mission Prayer Diary 12th to 18th July

Barnabas Aid

Barnabas Aid is an international Christian ministry that provides hope and practical support to suffering and persecuted Christians.

Christians are a marginalised and persecuted group in Buddhist-majority Sri Lanka. Local authorities and Buddhist extremists, including monks, perpetuate the false idea that Christian worship is forbidden without permission from the authorities and try to shut down services and prayer meetings in private homes.

- *Pray for courage and perseverance for Sri Lankan Christians, especially converts. Call on the Lord to protect pastors and congregations, asking Him to strengthen those in rural areas where hostility is most intense.*

In Morocco, approximately 20,000 believers (0.2% of the population) are steadily growing in faith.

- *Pray for unity and fellowship among believers, that they will encourage one another under societal pressure.*

Three-day training sessions for 315 Christian primary school teachers have been delivered at five separate locations in conflict-afflicted areas of Myanmar. The sessions, funded by Barnabas, focused on increasing participants' knowledge of child psychology, teaching methodology and classroom management.

- *Pray for strong encouragement for the teachers who attended to put principles learned into practice that benefit the children in their care.*

Take Time to Pray

Mission Prayer Diary 19th to 25th July

Church Mission Society - Tim & Kate Lee

Jigsaw Kids Ministry is a Christian child development ministry working to improve and develop the lives of children and young people living in extreme need and hardship in depressed, temporary shelter and street communities in Metro Manila and Angeles City Philippines.

Mission partner Tim Lee, working to help children and families living in poverty in Manila through Jigsaw Kids' Ministries, asks for prayer for the 24 households who lost their homes in a recent fire in Quezon city where Jigsaw has served for many years.

- *Please pray that their homes may be rebuilt, losses restored, and that they would find peace, security, and the love and strength of Jesus. Pray for all the children, young people and families connected with Jigsaw – that in the midst of challenges they would know Jesus as Lord and Saviour, and that many more people would come to faith through his love.*

Jigsaw's Children's Disability Ministry is such an important ministry, supporting children and their families with love and care, focusing on health, wellbeing, inclusion, and building a strong family network.

- *Thank God for a recent grant that enabled over 20 children to enjoy a special day of water therapy. Many experienced being in water for the first time, delighting in the freedom to float, splash, and move like never before.*
- *Please continue to pray for a social worker to lead and grow Jigsaw's disability ministry, and for provision for more regular water therapy days.*

Take Time to Pray

Mission Prayer Diary 26th July to 1st August

European Christian Mission – Stephen & Tabita Bell

ECM's mission is to **EQUIP**, **CONNECT** and **MULTIPLY** followers of Jesus through discipleship and church planting across Europe.

Stephen has let us know about some new opportunities that he has been asked to be involved with:

To join in mobilization plans, sending missionaries from South America to the Balkan countries, especially Croatia.

➤ *Please pray that God would give us open doors and a clear plan.*

Stephen has been invited to be one of the 300 mentors worldwide to mentor over 1000 young leaders 25-35 years old also worldwide. They will be allocated groups of “mentees” for fortnightly Zoom mentor-discussions leading up to a week in Brazil March 16-22, 2027. There, whilst enjoying the huge conference, they will sit at a table face-to-face. Afterwards, they will continue, maybe with on-site visitations to develop friendships and influence. Until then 176 mentors have preparation every 2 weeks on Zoom.

➤ *Please pray specifically for these opportunities and that God would magnificently guide and empower.*

At Novi Marof, churchplant there has been a Children’s Evangelistic Programme added for Saturday mornings. Tabita and 3 other women run it. The last two months have seen glorious times with the 8 or so children who come regularly.

➤ *Please pray for the continuing success of this programme.*

Thy Kingdom Come

Thy Kingdom Come at Christ Church Academy.

A message for Mrs. Nicholson-Ward

As part of the Thy Kingdom Come project 2026, pupils and staff committed to praying each day during our Base time sessions. Together, we prayed for five people or causes each day, taking time to think about the needs of others and the wider world.

Throughout the project, we explored different ways of reflecting and praying, including stilling activities and Christian meditation. These quiet moments helped us to focus, listen and deepen our understanding of prayer.

A particular highlight was creating simple prayer bracelets, which served as a reminder of the 5 people and causes we had been praying for. We are especially grateful to the parish volunteers who kindly prepared the threads for us. Thank you so much for your time, generosity and support in helping to make this activity possible.



Maryanne Lloyd

Save the Date!

Friday 2nd October for
our Big Quiz Night in
Christ Church Centre
in aid of Tearfund.

tearfund



Tales from the Towpath

Hello Everyone,

Well, it has been a very busy month– from boat festivals and broken legs to moving boats and lock opening!!!! Being a Waterways Chaplain brings many adventures!!!

So where to start??

In May John and I helped a boater we see and help regularly to take them through the locks of Stoke, Meaford and Stone a total of 14 locks, starting at Etruria where the Caldon Canal meets the Trent and Mersey Canal down to the Star Lock. We always do this over two days – it just goes to show the unpredictable weather of late as the first day was very wet and cold and the second day very hot and sunny! Whilst at Etruria we were also involved with volunteers from the Canal & River Trust having to move a boat for a boater who is unwell and unable to do that for themselves at the moment. The boat needed moving to make way for the Etruria Canal Festival to be held.

At the end of that week, we went away to **Crick Boating Festival** (near to Rugby on the Grand Union Canal) for my birthday weekend! We stayed for 3 nights and thoroughly enjoyed the show speaking with lots of



people telling them about Waterways Chaplaincy. The weather was glorious – very hot. A real festival atmosphere – including a service on Sunday morning in the big marquee hosted by the Boater's Christian Fellowship where I was asked to do a reading which was a privilege on Pentecost Sunday. Sunday evening we also went to see a 'Madness' tribute band which was great fun!

(cont...)



Tales from the Towpath (cont.)



On the way home on Monday from Crick we took in a visit to **Foxton Locks** – a Grade Two listed site - the largest staircase of locks on the British canal system – it comprises two flights of ten locks. There are also the remains of an historic Inclined Plane which used to take the boats up and down the 75 feet hill without using locks. It is well worth a visit.

The following weekend took us to the Etruria Canal Festival much more local and good fun. I also had to do a mercy mission for the boater whose boat we previously moved to fetch them some fuel from the historic fuel boat – another interesting experience.



The following week I visited one of the chaplains in our Staffordshire Hub over at Fradley Junction (near Lichfield) to check that he was okay and for a general catch up. We had a pleasant morning on that stretch of canal despite the rain – it always seems to rain when we do a towpath walk together! That afternoon saw me at Shobnall, near to Burton on Trent helping a boating couple with health issues fill in an Equality Adjustment form to hopefully enable them to stay longer in one place whilst needing medical appointments to be kept.

Then came the adventure with helping a boater move their boat from Great Haywood to Stone. When offering to help I did not realise that I would be driving! I thought I would be helping with the locks but the boater had other ideas and their health meant it was very difficult for them to do the driving. So, despite my lack of boat driving experience (cont...._)

Tales from the Towpath (cont.)

we managed to bring the boat up to Stone - phew!! It took 5 hours negotiating to do the 9 miles and four locks with a rather difficult to steer boat. Quite a day!

Then, as if enough had not happened I hear that a boater in my area had been attacked which resulted in their having a badly broken leg – not good on a boat! So, locating a wheelchair for them to borrow and getting them food once released from hospital was the order of the day. Many other boaters have been rallying round to help and thanks to Neil from Christ Church who has been providing lots of practical help for the boater. It might be a long time for them to recover so all help is welcome. Today I will be taking said boater to outpatients appointment at the hospital – I guess there may be a few of those to come! (Outpatients appointment running two hours late and horrendous parking at RSH as usual!)



Yesterday I went to a Chaplain's Conference for Chaplains in the Lichfield Diocese at Shrewsbury Hospital Education Centre – attending were School Chaplains, Hospital & Hospice Chaplains, Fire Service & Police Chaplains and many others. A really interesting event and good to be included.

Quite a month!

Please continue to pray for all those using our waterways.

God bless.

Helen 17/6/26

Time to have your say ..

Consultations taking place in June, July and August are a chance for you to have your say in the process to appoint the 100th Bishop of Lichfield.



In Person Consultations - in each episcopal area

- there will be open consultations in each archdeaconry. Anyone can attend any of these as is convenient. Details of venues to be confirmed.

Who?	Where?	Date	Time
Lichfield open meeting	Penkridge St Michael and All Angels, ST19 5LY	24 June	6.30 for 7.00
Shrewsbury open meeting	Telford Telford Minster, Southwater Square, Telford, TF3 4HS	1 July	6.30 for 7.00
Walsall open meeting	Aldridge Aldridge Church Centre, The Green, WS9 8NH	14 July	6.30 for 7.00
Stoke open meeting	Meir Heath St Francis Church, Sandon Rd, Stoke-on-Trent ST3 7LH	21 July	6:30 for 7:00



Use the QR code for more info on the Lichfield Diocese website

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/>

From the Notice Sheet:-

Summer Socials Last year we held some informal social get-togethers over the summer period. We had tea and cake in the gardens of members of our 3 churches on Sunday afternoons from 4 to 5.30pm. We can organise this but would like some hosts. If you would like to host an occasion please speak to Jacqueline Abrahams (office hours) or the Vicar.



CHARTLEY CASTLE

Travelling from Stone to Uttoxeter on the A518, one cannot miss the ruins of Chartley Castle – it has an interesting history. Originally built in 1100 as a motte and bailey castle, it was converted in 1220 into a stone fortification by Ranulph de Blondeville as a safe stop for travellers between Chester and Tutbury. It is apparently very similar in style to Beeston Castle, another port of call for travellers on the way to Chester. The castle was owned by the Ferrers family for 200 years before being inherited by the Devereux family in 1453. The owner was killed at the Battle of Bosworth in 1485 and the castle ceased to be a place of residence being replaced by a more comfortable manor house next door. In 1575, Elizabeth 1 stayed there for ten days.

In 1586, Mary, Queen of Scots was imprisoned in the manor house as it had a deep moat which prevented Mary or her staff from having any access to the outside world. Much to Elizabeth's displeasure however, this did not stop her supporters from contacting her with secret messages. One of these messages from Anthony Babington, apparently found its way to her in a beer barrel cork! Mary responded requesting the assassination of Elizabeth. This message was intercepted by Francis Walsingham's spies at Chartley and Mary was formally arrested and sent to Tixall Hall prior to despatch to Fotheringham Castle where she was executed.

Further sensations then followed at Chartley as Robert Devereux, was arrested and executed following the failed Essex Rebellion in 1601. In 1781, the Manor was destroyed by fire and rebuilt in an Elizabethan style in 1847.

There is no public access to the castle, although there is a public footpath past the Manor House.

John Bowes



Pilgrim Places

Discover Pilgrim Places or find out how your church could join in

Visiting a Pilgrim Place

Many people today love visiting churches, cathedrals and other special places such as Lindisfarne and Iona. These beautiful historic sites can give us a sense of belonging and perspective. But they offer more than this.

Visiting a Pilgrim Place doesn't mean you have to be wearing hiking boots or a rucksack (though walking or cycling is a great way to travel if you can). Instead, it means that like millions of people before you, you can find peace, hope, comfort, and understanding to take back into your everyday pilgrim journey of life.

Being a pilgrim in a special place offers space to pause and explore our own experience and thoughts. It helps to take time out of the 'ordinary' to think about our journey through life. Helpful questions include, 'Where have I come from?', 'Where am I now?', 'Where am I going?', 'What might I need to help me cope – and grow?'

At the heart of being a pilgrim is our journey through life, in which we can experience God's guidance and care each day. This is strengthened by developing our inner relationship with him.



This summer, the Church of England offers a new series of reflections centred around pilgrimage – places and stories that help us feel part of something bigger on our journey towards God.

[Pilgrim Places, Holy Lives | The Church of England](#)

Groups and Rotas

Deanery Synod reps	Gary Williams, Sue Kingman
PCC Members	Lynne Collier, Maxine Garrington-Miller. Marylyn Hillman, George Holden, Pete Kelly, Liz Mason, Sheelagh Saunders Andy Stone, Shirley Hallam
Secretary	Sheelagh Saunders
Treasurer	Pete Kelly
Envelopes.Gift Aid	Lynda Marengi

FLOWER ROTA		WELCOMER	
5 th July		5 th July	Anne Smith
12 th July	Jeanette Rowlands	12 th July	Jean Coulcher
19 th July		19 th July	Lorraine Price
26 th July		26 th July	Pete Kelly
CHURCH REGISTERS	BAPTISMS		
	WEDDINGS		
	FUNERALS		

ROADS FOR PRAYER	
July 6th	July 20th
Field Terrace	Kings Avenue
Goodhall Close	Longton Road
Granville terrace	Margaret Street
Harding Grove	Meadowside
July 13th	July 27th
Harecastle Bank	Meaford Avenue
Hartley Drive	Millenium Way
Joules Drive	Millers gate
Kent Grove	Mount Avenue

