

Christ Church Magazine

August 2026



40p

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	811990
Parish Office	Christ Church Centre, Christ Church Way, Stone, Staffs ST15 8ZB Email office@christchurchstone.org	811990

CHRIST CHURCH CENTRE

Booking Secretary	Parish Office	811990
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CHURCH SCHOOLS

Christ Church C.E.(Controlled) First School, Northesk Street.

Headteacher Mrs A. Graham BA(Hons) NPQH 01785 336545

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 – Cows trying
to keep cool at Launde
Abbey by Helen

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

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,

I hope you are enjoying this glorious weather!! The schools have broken up now so we are into holiday season so I hope you enjoy this August edition of the magazine. Dates for your diary are included – the summer Sunday afternoon socials (see page 16) and detail of the Autumn Harvest Quiz night is on page 14, so do get those on the calendar!

Enjoy the poem from Olivia – a Year 4 pupil at Christ Church First School on page 13 and the usual Tales from the Towpath is inside. Please – more articles are needed. See you in September!

Enjoy reading,
Helen

From the Vicarage.....

Transfigured

August is associated with vacations, especially for those with school children. For all who have been hankering after the sun, despite the large dose in July, there now might be the leisure to enjoy it! We gladly cast aside full-length clothing, don shorts and put on sunblock during a slower month. But it's easy to miss critical things during down time.

Tucked away during the summer vacation is a significant Christian festival: the transfiguration of Jesus (6th August). This was the occasion when Jesus took Peter, James and John up a mountain where he was 'transfigured': *'His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light'* (Matthew 17v2). This sudden shining or radiance was not because someone put a spotlight on him, or a mirror directed sunlight onto him from another source. This light came from inside and

shone out through his very being. His divine nature became apparent to those with him. It was a reminder of the glory he had before he became man – when *‘the word became flesh and dwelt among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only’* (John 1v14) – but also a preview of his future exaltation.

Then, some famous characters turn up unexpectedly as gatecrashers of the party: *‘Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus’* (Mt 17v3). Moses and Elijah represent the Old Testament Law and the Prophets which all pointed forward to the coming of the Messiah. This is who Jesus is. It is verified by what is heard next: *‘a voice came from the cloud and said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!”’* (Mt 17vv5b).

Two questions in my mind arise from this incident. The first is to ask myself do I dwell enough on Jesus’ majesty, or have I fallen prey to domesticating him as a rabbi who had his day? Secondly, do I long to learn about Jesus and really take on board the teaching found in the Bible, or have I settled with my limited understanding of the past? The summer season provides more time to address these questions and recalibrate!

I hope your summer proves to be a blessing. I also hope that readers will consider Jesus and be part of our life as a church to know Jesus better and to make him better known.

Paul Kingman
August 2026



Church Diary August 2026

	Date	Time	Events (Zoom codes in weekly email)
Sat	1st	8.30 am	Prayer meeting followed by breakfast
Sun	2nd	9.15 am 5.00 pm	Communion; Romans 15: 14-33 "Prayer for ministry" Gospel Love course at the Vicarage (7 of 9)
Mon	3rd		
Tue	4th	10.30 am	Communion; John 21: 4-27 "Beach Bar-B-Q"
Wed	5th		
Thu	6th		
Fri	7th		
Sat	8th		
Sun	9th	9.15 am 5.00 pm	Morning Prayer; Ezra 1: 1-8 "Freedom!" Gospel Love course at the Vicarage (8 of 9)
Mon	10th		
Tue	11th	10.30 am 2.30 pm	Communion; Revelation 19: 6-10 "Heaven's feast" Autumn House — Church at Home service
Wed	12th	2.30 pm	Oulton Abbey — Church at Home service
Thu	13th	11.00 am	St. Mary's Home — Church at Home service
Fri	14th		

Church Diary August 2026

	Date	Time	Events (Zoom codes in weekly email)
Sat	15th		
Sun	16th	9.15 am 5.00 pm	Communion; Ezra 3: 8-13 "Joy and sadness" Gospel Love course at the Vicarage (9 of 9)
Mon	17th		
Tue	18th	10.30 am	Communion; 1 Peter 1: 1-12 "Chosen for future glory"
Wed	19th		
Thu	20th		
Fri	21st		
Sat	22nd		
Sun	23rd	9.15 am	Morning Prayer; Ezra 4: 1-24 "Facing opposition"
Mon	24th		
Tue	25th	10.30 am	Communion; 1 Peter 1: 13 – 2: 3 "Chosen to be holy"
Wed	26th		
Thu	27th		
Fri	28th		
Sat	29th		
Sun	30th	9.15 am	Morning Prayer; Ezra 5: 1-12 "The courage to rebuild"
Mon	31st		<i>Bank Holiday</i>

Take Time to Pray

Mission Prayer Diary 2nd to 8th August

Langham Partnership

The vision of the Langham Partnership is to see churches in the Majority World equipped for mission and growing to maturity in Christ through the ministry of pastors and leaders who believe, teach and live by the Word of God.

The need for resources in print and non-print formats, and to be available in a wide range of heart languages is great.

- *Pray that we will be able to find translators who can assist us and for creativity in the use of technology for our resources.*
- *Please pray for the writing projects that are being commissioned and written. Give thanks for the authors' talents in serving the Kingdom of God and for wisdom, perseverance, peace, clarity, and strength.*
- *Please keep in prayers our distribution team, for strength and wisdom. Give thanks for their good work and the essential role they play in equipping individuals, colleges, libraries and preachers all across the world.*

Scholar Care Coordinators meet regularly with Langham Scholars, providing support and encouragement throughout their PhD journey.

- *Pray for scholars with school-age children. For those studying outside of their own country or region, the school system may be different to what their children are used to, so pray for good academic settings for these families. The PhD journey includes the entire family, and when families are having a hard time, it impacts a scholar's ability to focus on their PhD work.*

Take Time to Pray

Mission Prayer Diary 9th to 15th August

Mission Aviation Fellowship

Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) is an international Christian organization dedicated to providing aviation services to isolated communities, delivering help, hope, and healing through aviation.

MAF pilots Ryan Koher and Dave Holmes were able to open the new airstrip in Mussoma, Mozambique. This airstrip will enable MAF to serve the communities in the Niassa Special Reserve well by flying in doctors to deliver essential healthcare.

➤ *Give thanks for the work in this area to make it more accessible.*

Twice a month during dry season, a team of doctor's board an MAF plane and fly north for a two-day ministry trip serving hundreds of people in various villages.

➤ *Pray for MozMed flights that reach remote areas and support people with healthcare needs.*

God brought new trainees to MAF in 2025. Ask that as they move through 2026, they will grow quickly in confidence, skill, and Christ-centred character.

➤ *Pray that they will be well supported and become the next generation of pilots and engineers equipped to serve faithfully in mission aviation.*

There is an urgent need for teachers to serve in Christian schools in Papua New Guinea, South Sudan, and Liberia.

➤ *Ask God to call dedicated educators who can support missionary families, bless local students, and strengthen these essential learning communities.*

Take Time to Pray

Mission Prayer Diary 16th to 22nd August

UCCF The Christian Unions

The UCCF mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ in the student world.

Their vision is to give every student in Great Britain an opportunity to hear and respond to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

As Harper Adams CU continues to grow:

- *Pray for its members to continue rejoicing in their salvation, both in the CU meetings and in daily lectures. Pray that this will spark conversations with their friends and peers who see the love of Christ through them.*

There is a new committee at Coventry CU.

- *Pray that God's grace would be their primary motivation and source of joy, serving not out of necessity, but from a desire to reach the lost. May CU leadership be an opportunity for them to acknowledge their need for God in all things.*

Summer is often a season of change at UCCF. Many staff who are moving onto new jobs and life chapters choose to leave at the end of the academic year, and this summer we are saying goodbye to eight Staff Workers and four others, all of whom will be sorely missed.

- *Join us in praying a blessing over them as they go – and we also offer a prayer of thanks for the new Staff Workers who will be beginning their time with UCCF in August.*

Take Time to Pray

Mission Prayer Diary 23rd to 29th August

FEBA Radio

Feba works with local partners in Africa, Asia and the Middle East to broadcast God's message of hope via radio, portable audio devices, the internet and social media to those in hard-to-reach places.

Relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan are tense and in June Pakistan launched deadly airstrikes along its border with Afghanistan.

- *Pray for God's guidance for political leaders and those in positions of influence, that they would pursue wisdom, stability and understanding. Pray for all those affected by tension and uncertainty in the region, and that opportunities to share the good news of Jesus will continue despite the challenges and restrictions they face*

The devastating conflict continues in Yemen. Remember those afflicted by poverty and displacement, asking God to provide for their needs and bring comfort in these hard times.

- *Pray that nothing would hinder people from hearing programmes that share practical help, spiritual encouragement and the good news of Jesus.*

As Kyrgyzstan prepares for its upcoming presidential elections early next year:

- *Please pray for peace, wisdom and stability across the nation. With diverse political, cultural and religious influences shaping the region, ask God to guide those in positions of leadership and responsibility. Pray that the election process will be peaceful and just.*

Take Time to Pray

Mission Prayer Diary 30th August to 5th September

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.

Beginning as 'Footsteps' this pilot project was kindly funded and in collaboration with the British Army in 2022. The pilot underscored the importance of understanding the unique context of Army Chaplaincy and the need to provide high-quality pastoral supervision. Initially supporting 10 Army Chaplains, the Footsteps Programme continues to grow year on year now accommodating over 30 Army Chaplains, and is continuing to grow.

- *Pray for the on-going work of this project to provide support for Army Chaplains.*

St Luke's Advancing Clergy Reflection Programme is an ambitious, five-year initiative, to move clergy wellbeing forward in 25 Church of England dioceses and six within the Church in Wales.

- *Please pray that the project is successful in its aim to support and encourage dioceses to embed pastoral supervision into their practice as part of the long-term care to those serving.*

St Luke's provides wellbeing resources – including resilience training and reflective practice groups – teach clergy how to cope with the challenges of ministry life, and flourish in long-term, fulfilling service.

- *Give thanks for these resources that promote wellness for clergy and their families.*

A Poem

Christ Church First School (Northesk Street, Stone), had a final school service at Christ Church, Stone on Tuesday 14th July. During the service we heard various memories of their time at the school. This poem was written by one of the leavers in Year 4 and we reproduce it with her permission for our readers. Well done Olivia! Paul Kingman

Together We Shine

From tiny hands in Receptions play,
To a year four minds that lead the way,
Our school hums bright with joy and cheer,
A class growing year by year.

Through colourful days where wonder grows,
Each voice belongs, where hearts are strong.
We learn, we laugh, we dream, we share,
Kindness blooming everywhere.

Reception builds with blocks so tall,
Year one writes stories, big and small,
Year two counts stars that fill the sky,
Year three asks questions- how and why?

And year four stands with steady grace,
Ready to take the next big place,
Together we learn, together we grow,
A river of wonder, a steady flow.

From first small steps to goals so high,
Our school's bright spirit will never die.
Reception to Year Four, hand in hand,
The heart of learning, strong and grand.



By Olivia Best

The Mother's Union

The **Mothers' Union** is celebrating 150 years of existence. It was founded by Mary Sumner, the wife of the Rector of Old Alresford in Hampshire. 30 women met at the Rectory, when Mary's prime aim was to create a support network and offer guidance on Christian motherhood. From that simple beginning the MU now has around 4 million members in 84 countries.



The MU continues its support, through prayer and faith, tackling poverty, gender based violence and social injustice. There are many groups in England but sadly the branch at Christ Church disbanded some 20 years ago. However there is a Mothers' Union at Oulton church. Despite its name the MU has moved on and welcomes members of any age or gender.

It is plain to see that this is no huddle enjoying tea and cakes but an active and influential society throughout the world.

Shirley

tearfund

Save the Date!

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



Join the Journey of Growth

Someone once said “Not everything that counts can be counted” – and when it comes to our faith it is hard to see a way of ‘measuring’ where we are at with God. Indeed, do we need to?

Whilst the national church demands our attendance and finance figures (both essential to track), we might see our spiritual growth and deepening of our discipleship as equally – or if not more - important to consider.

The Church Development Tool is a refreshed online survey tool which can help whole congregations better understand themselves and how they feel about their faith.

Launched on 1 June, it is free, anonymous and now housed on the Online Parish Returns platform. It can enable congregations to have their voice heard about the life and ministry of the church and includes modules on diversity, children & young people, lay ministry, giving and discipleship.

With only 22 questions in total, even a church conducting all six modules will find it quick and easy to administer and gather the results from. You can then run it twelve months later for example and compare the results to monitor your journey.

In my role as Whole Life Discipleship Officer, I was particularly interested in the discipleship module – thought-provoking questions such as ‘How often do you pray?’ and ‘to what extent you feel you have someone you trust to share questions about God’ prompted me to reflect personally - irrespective of any wider results. So as a diocese we offered to help pilot the ‘CDT’ with a few churches to gather feedback on the process and the questions – then suggest tweaks – to help those at Church House developing this nationally.

If you are interested in running the survey at your church, see the link below for more information. It could be as a one-off snapshot or as part of a wider development piece – either way please do get in touch with me and I can set that up for you. I can even come and talk it through with church leaders / PCC if that is helpful. (cont...)

Join the Journey of Growth (cont...)

I am excited to see what this survey can do to support our churches to celebrate what is going well – and identify areas ripe for development. Whilst our walk with God is never straightforward or something we can quantify easily, my prayer is that the Church Development Tool is a means of us all joining in the journey forward – together. You never know, it might even lead to more souls in our services praising God with us.



*Helen Emery, Whole
Life Discipleship
Officer*

helen.emery@lichfield.anglican.org



Mobile: 07498 192669.

*The Church Development Tool survey and resources can be found at
<https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/church-near-you/church-development-tool>*



Dates for your diary

Summer Socials

All are invited to have tea and cake in the gardens of members of our 3 churches on Sunday afternoons from 4 to 5.30pm. Here is the programme

2 nd Aug	Sue Campbell-Kelly & Friends at 1 Parkhouse Drive, Stone
9 th Aug	Sue and Paul Kingman at The Vicarage, Bromfield Court
16 th Aug	Christine and Ray Pentland at 31 Lakesedge, Cold Norton
23 rd Aug	Louise and Pete Kelly at 112 Navigation Loop, Whitebridge
30 th Aug	Jacqueline and Pete Abrahams at 20 Farrier Close, Aston Lodge

Tales from the Towpath

Hello Everyone,



Can you believe that it is 3 years since I officially started as a Waterways Chaplain! Time certainly flies! I guess I must have been around for a while now as lots of boaters know me which is great. I went to Gnosall Canal Festival last Saturday and nearly all the traders I had met somewhere before. The Gnosall Festival is a great one every year as you can see from the photos – lots of historic boats as well as many craft traders.



Otherwise the last month has been glorious weather so lovely to be out on the towpath, chatting and helping. Did a couple of trips to Etruria to help a disabled boater collect things from his boat – sadly this boater has had to give up cruising now due to ill health – always a sad time for anyone. Also, a trip up to Longport to do a (cont...)

Tales from the Towpath (cont.....)

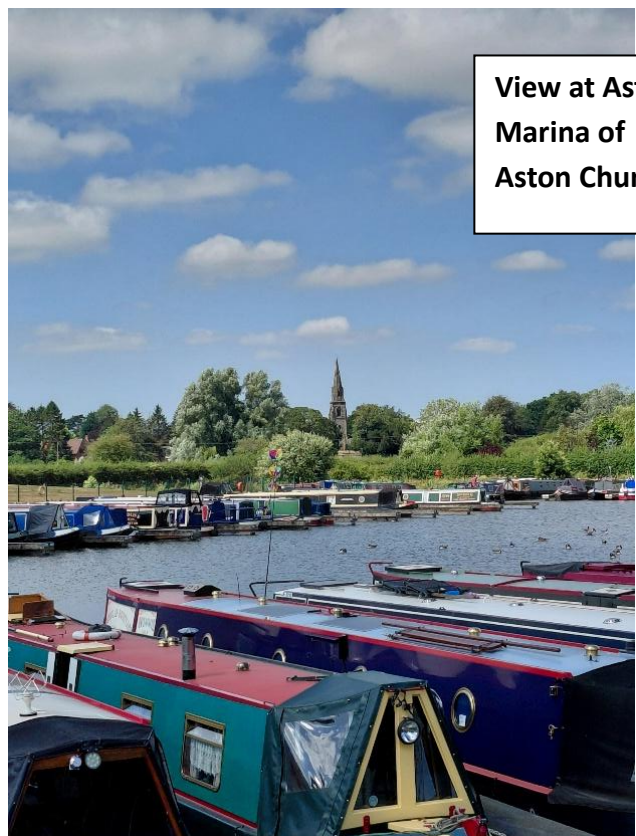
shopping run with another boater. Big thanks to Neil who has been helping this particular boater – you will have seen Neil wearing his Waterways Chaplaincy Supporter Polo shirt – not a chaplain but certainly supporting! Taking food parcels, sharing some talking and listening time over a coffee and filling in an Equality Adjustment form are all part of the normal life of a chaplain – taking the good news of Jesus out to the world through service.

Our small Staffordshire Hub of Chaplains met for our summer meeting at the Plum Pudding Pub at Armitage. That's a lovely pub to go to right on the canal side. It was in the heat wave though so we could not get anything to eat – the kitchen had closed as it had reached 56 degrees in there!!! Cold drinks all round though.

The canals are getting busy but also we are worried that water levels will get low again in the dry and hot weather. The Trent and Mersey from Lock 41 to Lock 71 (north of Harecastle Tunnel) has already been closed, so please continue to pray for all those using our waterways.

God bless.

Helen 17/6/26



View at Aston
Marina of
Aston Church

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/>

Retirement of Chris Wright from being CEO of the Key Educational Trust

Chris Wright began in September 2003 at Christ Church Academy as the Deputy head for 'Christ Church Middle School' (as it was then called). Later he moved on to become Head of Codsall Middle School. Four years later he returned to Christ Church Academy (it had become a stand-alone academy) to be its Principal.

When The Key Educational Trust was established in 2016 it became a multi academy trust due to the joining of Christ Church Friest and Oulton First schools. Chris developed an ethos that enabled schools to flourish. The academy has grown since during his time as the CEO. We are grateful that Chris brought wisdom to the schools, provided a steady guiding hand during changing times, as he looked after staff and pupils alike.

We wish him a happy change of gear as he steps back from this role .
Paul Kingman

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, Shelagh Saunders Andy Stone, Shirley Hallam
Secretary	Sheelagh Saunders
Treasurer	Pete Kelly
Envelopes.Gift Aid	Lynda Marengi

FLOWER ROTA		WELCOMER	
2 nd Aug		2 nd Aug	Jacqueline Abrahams
9 th Aug	Brenda Boote	9 th Aug	Anne Smith
16 th Aug		16 th Aug	Pam Roberts
23 rd Aug	Kath Thompson	23 rd Aug	Jeanette Rowlands
30 th Aug		30 th Aug	Jean Coulcher
CHURCH REGISTERS	BAPTISMS		
	WEDDINGS		
	FUNERALS 10th June Andy McQueen Age 60 22nd June Charlene Susan Holmes Age 69		

ROADS FOR PRAYER

Aug 3rd

Mount Crescent
Mount Road
Mount Street
Navigation Loop

Aug 24th

Oulton Mews
Oulton Road
Princes Street
Queens Square

Aug 10th

Newcastle Road
Newcastle Street
Nicholls Lane
Northesk Street

Aug 31st

Radford Close
Radford Street
Rangeley View
Regent Street

Aug 17th

Old Road
Old Road Close
Oulton Cross
Oulton Grove

