Christ Church Magazine

November 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	Vacant	
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

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 November 2026

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Committed to following Jesus. Commissioned to make Disciples



Front Cover –
Pampas Grass at Stonefield Park by Jeanette

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

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,
Greetings to you all. I am typing this on a very wet day indeed – it has not stopped raining heavily all day. A sign of winter coming, although the leaves seem to be staying on the trees a lot longer this year. The seasons do seem to be in a muddle!
We have some interesting articles for you this month – Roger is giving us some thoughts about the appointment process for our 100th Bishop of Lichfield. We have a very interesting article from Matt Davies about receiving a BBC 'Make a Difference Award' and we have reports from Louse about the Midlands Women's Convention and from Sue about the Tearfund Transforming Communities event.
We love to hear all your news and stories – please do keep them coming.
There are details also of the Advent Windows calendar this year – hop to see you there! God bless, Helen.

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From the Vicarage……

. What do you remember?

Many I talk to are aware of their memory not being as good as it once was. The details retained earlier in life are at the fingertips or on their tongue but not always so easy to produce.

But there are some bigger things in life which are marked on the calendar and deserve attention. In fact, it is hard to avoid because of their public nature. So, we remember the great Wars on Remembrance Day. The official second Sunday where we come together to reflect on the past and observe a time of silence. It gives us time to pause and think back to the huge (and in many cases untold) sacrifices made to secure peace. It is deeply humbling to recognise the extent of

sacrifices: we may have a personal connection with people who have served in that War or subsequently which makes it even more poignant as a day. We are painfully aware of the human losses involved and such hardships faced consequently. Behind the scenes were all manner of things done as part of the War effort. The rationing of supplies from food to fabric; the workforce being supplemented, education being disrupted; people digging up their lawns to dig for victory as they grew their own vegetables; volunteers acting as firefighters; ripping out metal fences to provide materials for making machinery. The month of November is the month to remember.

We also take time to remember the loss of loved ones through our memorial service for the bereaved (Sunday 8th November in the afternoon). The process of bereavement with the emotions of grief are so unpredictable (there is no set pattern), but express the love we once enjoyed and now miss.

Finally, a Bible verse about remembering as it comes up so often as a theme. *6 Remember your mercy, O Lord, and your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. 7 Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O Lord* (Psalm 25). How wonderful it is (v6) to know God's mercy and steadfast love when we know that we are so fickle and blow hot and cold. But he is constant! How gracious too that God is that he extends forgiveness to us (v7) through the Lord Jesus Christ so that he does not remember our past, but he never forgets us! May I encourage you to engage with the season for positive reason. But also to be mindful of the Lord for his great mercy, steadfast love and forgiveness.



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Paul Kingman
November 2026

Church Diary November 2026

	Date	Time	Events (Zoom codes in weekly email)
Sun	1st	9.15 am 5.00 pm	Communion; Nehemiah 9: 1-12, 32-37 “Praying in the rain” Christianity Explored course in the church centre (5 of 7)
Mon	2nd	9.30 am	Toddler group
Tue	3rd	9.15 am 10.30 am 12.30 pm	Christ Church First School assembly Communion; Luke 15: 1-8 “The shrewd manager” Pursuit Club Christ Church Academy
Wed	4th		
Thu	5th		
Fri	6th	1.15 pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Sat	7th	8.30 am	Prayer meeting followed by breakfast
Sun	8th	9.15 am 3.00 pm	Morning Prayer; John 15: 9-17 “The great love” Service for the bereaved
Mon	9th	9.30 am	Toddler group
Tue	10th	9.15 am 10.30 am 12.30 pm 2.15 pm 7.30 pm	Christ Church First School assembly Communion; Luke 15: 11-32 “The Lost Son” Pursuit Club Christ Church Academy Autumn House — Church at Home service PCC meeting in the church centre
Wed	11th	11.00 am 2.30 pm	Oulton Abbey — Church at Home service St. Mary’s Home — Church at Home service
Thu	12th		
Fri	13th	1.15 pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Sat	14th	2.00 pm	Jam and Chutney Sale in the church centre

Church Diary November 2026

Sun	15th	9.15 am 5.00 pm	Communion; John 15: 18-27 “The great divide” Christianity Explored course in the church centre (6 of 7)
Mon	16th	9.30 am	Toddler group
Tue	17th	9.15 am 10.30 am 12.30 pm	Christ Church First School assembly Communion; Luke 17: 7-10 “The Master and his servant” Pursuit Club Christ Church Academy
Wed	18th		
Thu	19th		
Fri	20th	1.15 pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Sat	21st		
Sun	22nd	9.15 am 5.00 pm	All age service; John 8: 12-18 “The light of the world” Christianity Explored course in the church centre (7 of 7)
Mon	23rd	9.30 am	Toddler group
Tue	24th	10.30 am	Communion; 1 Peter 1: 13 – 2: 3 “Chosen to be holy”
Wed	25th		
Thu	26th		
Fri	27th	1.15 pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Sat	28th		
Sun	29th	9.15 am 4.00 pm	Morning Prayer; Luke 1: 1-25 “Great plans” Confirmation service
Mon	30th	9.30 am	Toddler group

Take Time to Pray

This month is a little bit different! Sadly, our usual writer of the prayer diaries, Carole Stone, has had a sudden family bereavement, so our first prayers are for her and all her family.

I thought that there is no way I can just pick up and do what Carole takes a great deal of time and effort to put together so I thought perhaps it would be useful to give you all an update about all the Mission partners we work with currently and I hope your prayers will be for all of them. Remember that Christ Church tithes 10% of the 'Regular giving' to the church to mission partners both home and abroad – the more we give the more we can help!!.

MIDLANDS GOSPEL PARTNERSHIP - The Midlands Gospel Partnership exists to see healthy local churches in every Midlands community by:

- *training in biblical ministry*
- *co-operating in evangelism*
- *partnering in church planting initiatives*

CHURCH MISSION SOCIETY – PROJECTS IN INDIA AND 'JIGSAW' IN THE PHILLIPINES.

With Jesus. With each other. To the edges.

When we look at the life of Jesus, we see that he spent time with people at the edges, often to the astonishment of the establishment. Sick people, poor people, tax collectors, those who were often avoided due to their "sinner" status – Jesus welcomes them. He offers grace, healing, restoration, love – and he invites them to be part of his story.

Church Mission Society is likewise called to connect with people at the edges: the edges of church, the edges of society, the edges of our comfort zones. And we're always looking for others who will join us at edges near and far, to help share God's love in creative ways,

knowing that person-by-person, community-by-community, this is how we will see our world made new.

AFRICAN INLAND MISSION
Our passion is to see the worship of Jesus Christ spread among Africans around the globe – through individual lives fully committed to him, and collectively through Christ-centred churches.

THE LEPROSY MISSION
We are a global Christian organisation leading the fight against leprosy. Following Jesus Christ, we seek to bring about transformation; breaking the chains of leprosy and empowering people to attain healing, dignity and life in all its fullness.

LANGHAM PARTNERSHIP
Langham Partnership's mission is to strengthen the ministry of the Word of God through:

- Nurturing national movements for training in biblical preaching
- Multiplying the creation and distribution of evangelical literature
- Strengthening the theological training of pastors and leaders by qualified evangelical teachers
-

MISSION AVIATION FELLOWSHIP
Mission Aviation Fellowship is the world's largest humanitarian air operator, flying medical supplies, doctors, and nurses to places no one else can reach and ensuring critical care gets to where it's needed most. We fly light aircraft in more than 25 countries, reaching more communities than any other airline.

UCCF THE CHRISTIAN UNIONS Christian Unions are groups of students from a range of local churches who join together to help everyone at uni engage with the life-changing message of Jesus.

Take Time to Pray

Students have an unparalleled opportunity to reach their friends with the gospel. As they study on campus and live alongside their peers, time and again they unashamedly and boldly seek to speak of Jesus. With your support, our work ensures that CU students are supported and trained to impact the university for good, in Jesus' name.

FEBA RADIO

Inspiring people to follow *Jesus Christ*

We are sharing God's love, using audio media to tell people about Jesus in some of the hardest-to-reach communities around the world.

ST LUKES HEALTHCARE FOR CLERGY

We support individual clergy and their families to improve their psychological wellbeing and mental health.

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.

EUROPEAN CHRISTIAN MISSION

ECM's mission is to EQUIP, CONNECT and MULTIPLY followers of Jesus through discipleship and church planting across Europe.
We are committed to our mission until the whole of Europe is transformed.

SIMEONS TRUSTEES

Simeon's Trustees is a leading and long-standing Church of England patronage trust, with patronage interests in 166 benefices across 33 dioceses. Founded in 1836 by Charles Simeon (who is commemorated in the Church of England Calendar on 13 November), Simeon's Trustees are guided by his charge to his founding trustees and their successors, for the benefit of the parishes in our care.

Take Time to Pray

WATERWAYS CHAPLAINCY – NEW 2026

Waterways Chaplains offer support to boaters and to all who live, work or just enjoy the canals and waterways in England and Wales. As volunteers, we regularly visit the waterways offering a listening ear or practical help to those we meet or contact us.

OPEN DOORS – NEW 2026

Every day, millions of Christians risk their lives to follow Jesus. In more than 70 countries, Open Doors supports them by supplying Bibles, providing emergency relief and helping persecuted believers stand strong for the long-term. In the UK and Ireland, Open Doors helps the church to pray, give and speak out for those who share our faith but not our freedom.

TEARFUND – HARVEST GIVING HARVEST SERVICE AND QUIZ NIGHT

Tearfund is a Christian charity working in more than 50 countries to tackle extreme poverty and injustice. Last year alone, Tearfund worked with more than 3.3 million of the world's most marginalised people to help them move out of poverty, for good. We respond to extreme poverty just as Jesus shows us. By going to the world's most marginalised and exploited people, and showing our love through action.

CHILDRENS SOCIETY – COLLECTION BOXES AT CHRISTINGLE CHRISTMAS GIVING

For 140 years, The Children's Society has been here for young people when they most need support. Today, we've never been more determined to create a society built for all children. We draw on our experience and expertise; by listening to and empowering young people throughout teenhood. We collaborate tirelessly, building a movement with everyone who shares our vision. Because every child deserves to feel hopeful, happy and excited for their future.

Strong in the Lord

Five ladies from Christ Church attended the ***Midlands Women's Convention***, earlier on in October. It was an early start to get on the road, but the Autumn sunshine was shining gloriously in the cloudless blue sky (in fact it shone all day!).

After we arrived, we all went into the main theatre where we were welcomed with lots of other ladies of different ages, who were keen to learn more about the Lord. The main talk focussed on the book of Ephesians 4:17 5:2, which was about ***'Strong- living as one in the Lord',*** the speaker talked about us being like the bricks of the Lord's house, the Lord being the builder, and that without His power and strength as a foundation, we wouldn't be strong…

After lunch (we took packed lunches) there were different choices of seminars to attend, but most of us happened to choose the one about 'Faithful friendship'. We focussed on the book of Philippians 4:1 & the Gospel of John 15:19-17 thinking about why friendship with Jesus is **so** important.

As friends we can offer lovely things to each other, like loyalty, love, listening, but *only* Jesus (our best Friend) meets ALL of our needs.

The day was packed with singing lots of great worship songs!! 13 in all!! The sound was amazing! We were supported and led by musicians and great singers at the front (harmonies and all!). My favourite songs that we sang (the ones that I circled on the programme whilst we were there!!) were:

Turn Your Eyes- which we already sing at Christ Church, but these 3 new songs also which I didn't know, but loved learning, and have found myself listening to:

Come Praise & Glorify

King of Kings

Is He Worthy?- listening to this as I write this article….hoping we might learn this at church- you may already know it, but here are some words from it:

Is anyone worthy?

Is anyone whole

Strong in the Lord (cont.)

Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll
The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave
He is David's Root
And the Lamb who died to ransom the slave
Is He worthy
Is He worthy
Of all blessing an honour and glory
Is He worthy of this
He is!!!'

The final thing to mention is that there is a great Christian book sale also, which always has lots of bargains!! I ordered 3 calendars, and some lovely Christmas cards!!

If you like the sound of the above, try and organise to go next year and see and experience it for yourself.

Louise

The Quiz Night!!!!



A great time was had by all!

The 'most attractive pudding was won by Sue Kingman.

The quiz winners were 1st 'The Kingsmen' with 125 points, 2nd 'Flashes of Inspiration' with 118 points and 3rd were 'Clueless' with 117 points. (Total available points 161) well done All!

We raised **£185** for Tearfund from the evening

Thanks for coming and supporting. See you next year!

Helen

Our next Diocesan Bishop – Some thoughts

We would be surprised if our next diocesan bishop processed into a church service - crozier in one hand, and a large fishing net draped over the opposite shoulder! Of course it would be inconvenient, but perhaps a telling symbol of all Christian Ministry.

When Jesus called Peter, Andrew, James and John
He said, “Come follow me and I will make you fishers of men” (Mark 1:17). They were no longer to catch fish to eat but, (as we have seen so often in this hot dry summer), to rescue people from drought ridden, stagnant conditions, and move them to absolute safety.

The net would symbolise this important first step in ministry often referred to as Evangelism. Peter was also called to look after the Good Shepherd’s flock. Pastoral Care is the second great aspect of Christian Ministry.

When Jesus first called the disciples he said, “I will make you fishers of men”. “I will make” implies that he would train and change his new followers for the task ahead. Jesus called, trained, and through the Holy Spirit empowered, very ordinary people to be His ministers. This continues today.

As we pray for the right decisions to be made about a future Bishop of this diocese, we know that this will involve a detailed process. We believe that the people entrusted to this selection will eventually make a decision in keeping with the Lord’s will.

How will this be done?

Firstly, for several months the “Diocese’s Vacancy in See” committee will listen widely and diligently to discern what qualities people are hoping for in the one hundredth Bishop of Lichfield. It will then produce a “Statement of Needs” and select six of its number to take this with them when they join the central “Crown Nominations

Our next Diocesan Bishop – Some thoughts (cont.)

Commission". These six, together with six national representatives and the two archbishops will draw up a longlist of candidates. From this longlist the Crown Nominations Commission will carefully discuss who to shortlist. A few weeks later the shortlisted candidates will be interviewed and hopefully our new Bishop will be discerned at that time.

Before he retired, Bishop Michael asked us to pray for the right choice to be made. It will be a long process, taking us well into next year, but we must do all we can to pray to help those charged with this very important task. At the same time, we should remember in our prayers those who will be responsible for the oversight of the administration of our Diocese, during this important period.

Roger

PRAYING THROUGH THE VACANCY IN SEE

A PRAYER FOR THE 100 BISHOP OF LICHFIELD

Eternal Father You have provided faithful pastors in every age to watch over your people and lead them in your ways: as you chose your servant Chad to be the first bishop of your church in Lichfield, so raise up for us, who follow Christ in your footsteps today, a shepherd to lead your people in the joy and steadfastness of the Holy Spirit, that all may know the abundant life which you give us in Jesus Christ your Son. Amen

Hovis

Another fact about Stone of which I was completely unaware – **Hovis bread** was first created in 1886 by Miller Richard 'Stoney' Smith in the mill behind Christ Church in Mill Lane. It was so successful that Smith partnered with the larger Fitton and Sons mill in Macclesfield later that year. The name 'Hovis' was coined in 1890 by London student Herbert Grimes in a national competition to find a trading name for the patent flour which was rich in wheat germ. Grime won £25 by naming the flour after the Latin phrase 'hominus vis', the'strength of man'. Fittons became the Hovis Bread Flour Company Ltd in 1898. When the abundance of certain B vitamins in wheatgerm was reported in 1924, Hovis increased in popularity enormously. Hovis became part of Rank Hovis McDougall (RHM) in 1962, being acquired by Premier Foods in 2007. In November 2020, it was announced that the British private equity firm Endless LLP had acquired the interest in Hovis, later being transferred again to Associated British Foods.

The fact that the same brand has survived for 140 years is incredible. In 1973, Hovis ran a TV advertisement 'Boy on the Bike' under the direction of Ridley Scott who later directed 'Alien'. It featured a boy ascending Gold Hill in Shaftesury, Dorset. This advert has been voted Britain's favourite advertisement of all time. In addition, in 2008, Hovis launched another advertisement called 'Go on Lad' following the journey of a young boy through 122 years since the establishment of the brand – I have no recollection of the advert ! This was apparently voted as 'Advert of the Decade' by the British public and Hovis sales jumped by £12 million pounds per year as a result. There is now a statue of a Hovis loaf on Gold Hill. In other unusual advertisements, the company produced eight books of maps in 1899 covering England and Wales for cyclists. In 1920, the company published 'Where to Go and How to Get There'. Since 1980, Hovis have licensed Jacobs to produce a digestive biscuit, with Hovis stamped on the top surface.
The grave of Richard 'Stoney' Smith is located in Highgate cemetery with an inscription detailing his discovery of the Hovis process. ***John***

Tearfund Transforming Communities Legacy Event

On Tuesday 8th October, Helen and I enjoyed the spacious surroundings of Sutton Coldfield Baptist Church where we had gone to discover more about the work of Tearfund – one of the charities that we as a church support, particularly at Harvest. The event helped us to understand more about how Tearfund works to support churches in the poorest parts of the world to transform their own communities using the resources that are available to them locally.

The event opened with showings of the promotional videos that we had seen at our Harvest Quiz night and at church, giving a brief overview of Tearfund's work which is currently happening in 50 countries. The organisation first of all helps people in these countries to meet urgent needs such as clean water, food and safe places to live, then together with the local church and community, they equip the people to use the resources available to them and develop skills to build livelihoods for themselves. This transforms communities in a lasting way.

As part of the event, we played a 'game' with other delegates on our tables, during which we thought through how we would deal with a situation in a poor village in West Africa – envisioning the role of the church, understanding the problem and engaging leaders, and finally taking action and mobilising resources. Interesting discussions ensued around our tables as we delved into the scenario. Later on it was revealed that the situation we had been considering was a real one in a village in Sierra Leone where Tearfund has been working with Pastor John to transform his local community. Then, by the wonders of modern technology, we met Pastor John himself and two of Tearfund's workers by Zoom to hear more about how the process has worked in practice. It was encouraging to hear that the transformation had been so successful that other leaders in the neighbouring villages had been copying the model and coming to Pastor John for advice.

The event finished with a buffet lunch and an encouragement to leave a legacy to Tearfund in our wills. If you want to know more about how

Tearfund helps people in the poorest parts of the world to transform their communities visit tearfund.org.

Sue Kingman

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A Vision to Transform – thoughts from my recent Cruise.

At the interdenominational services on board I felt the responses fitted perfectly the theme of renewal that we are pursuing here at Christ Church.

From where we are to where you need us
Jesus now lead on
From the security of what we know to the adventure of what you will reveal
Jesus now lead on
To refashion the fabric of this fallen world until it resembles the shape of your kingdom
Jesus now lead on
Because good things have been prepared for those who love God
Jesus now lead on
Lord Jesus Christ, you have put your life into our hands. Now we put our lives into yours. Take us, renew us and make us. What we have is past. What we shall be through you still awaits us. Lead us on. Take us with you.
Amen

Monica

BBC 'Make a Difference' Awards.
BBC 'Make a Difference' Awards (cont.)

Dear [illegible],

My name is Matt Davies, a former Michelin listed and multi award winning Chef, after suffering a life changing accident resulting in the Amputation of my Left arm and hand - through trauma and being so poorly, I turned to God, Jesus, and are to confirm my faith by being Baptised at Christ Church on the 15th November, which I'm so proud, excited and thankful to be excepted into the House of God.



Over 8 years of enduring over 100 plastic surgeries, 3 amputations, and suffering with my Mental Health, I decided to try and raise a few pennies, to help others who suffer from Trauma and Mental Health.

This has been done inbetween my own horrendous suffering and surgeries, by holding Charity Dinners with my Chéf Peers, some very famous faces, and to date I've raised in excess of £170,000, which has been donated to, Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham, Stafford Hospital Stafford, Hospitality Action and Fisher House.

This year my Fundraising activities where recognised by the BBC MAKE A DIFFERENCE AWARDS, which was held in September, and I was the recipient of the FUNDRAISER OF THE YEAR AWARD, which I'm so proud to receive - but also a huge shock, as this category was fiercely contested.

My Fundraising this year isn't over just yet, as I've a Charity Dinner at the Acton at Morville, just outside Bridgnorth, in October with Michelin Star Chéf Luke Tipping as a guest chef, and finishing with a phenomenal

Charity Dinner at Lumiere in Cheltenham with Michelin Star Chef Jon Howe in November.
Next year, is looking exceptional too, I'll keep you all updated of my charitable events and money raised for charity.

Matt Davies

The following was taken from the BBC website:-

Former Michelin-listed chef Matt Davies, who suffered a severe electric shock that ended his career, was this year's winner of the fundraising award.

He said his experiences spurred him to raise more than £170,000 for three charities - The Queen Elizabeth Hospital Charity, Fisher House Foundation and Hospitality Action.

Davies had two amputations to an arm, 88 plastic surgeries and admitted he now suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

"I want to help so many people because I know how I've suffered, and I've suffered horrendously," he explained.

He added his fundraising had only been possible due to his "awesome" group of chef friends and contacts he had built during a 40-year career in hospitality.



Advent Windows Plan 2026



Advent Windows is coming!!!!!! Join us every day in December at 11.00am to hear part of the Christmas story, sing a carol and take part on our Advent Window opening!!!!

The locations and creators are listed below. Look forward to seeing you there!

Date	Day	Location	Creator
1	Tues	Vantage Point Creative	St Dominics Priory School
2	weds	3B Barbers	St Dominics Primary
3	thurs	Woolliscrofts	Oaktree Farm Rural project
4	frid	John Burton	Pirehill School
5	sat	Library	Hub Craft Group
6	sun	Wedding Belles Love	Oulton Guides & Brownies
7	mon	AED Donate (1) Clothes shop	The Crossing Community Centre
8	Tues	Cats Protection League	Christ Church 1st School
9	weds	British Heart Foundation	Smarty's Day Nursery
10	thurs	Co-op Funeral Care 2	St Michaels School
11	frid	Specsavers	Springfield 1st School
12	sat	Gavin Williamson Surgery	St Mary's Nursing Home

Advent Windows Plan 2026

13	sun	Christ Church (1)	Sunday School
14	mon	Childrens Society	Oulton 1st School
15	Tues	Co-op Funeral Care 1	Walton Priory School
16	weds	Shear Genius	Christ Church Academy
17	thurs	AED Donate (2) Furniture Shop	Manor Hill School
18	frid	Mums Flower shop	Meaford Fields Day Nursery
19	sat	Mud Pottery	Waterways Chaplaincy/Canal Cruising
20	sun	Bod Bar & Coffee Shop	The Early Years Academy Nursery
21	mon	Millies Pie Shop	Oulton Church
22	Tues	Nick Griffin Butchers	Mumbles Day Nursery
23	weds	Auto Car shop	Kids Planet Day Nursery
24	thurs	Christ Church (2)	Christ Church

Thursday December 24th – Carol singing walk round the town.
Starts at **3B Barbers Salon at 9.30am** (join in at any point) Ends at **Christ Church 11.00am** for Final Window opening and refreshments.



Everything we do is driven by you

As Brian May once sang, “everything we do, is driven by you”. Never has this been truer than in relation to the role of the Parish Safeguarding Officer.

Safeguarding has rightly become a key part of how our churches, schools and chaplaincies undertake our ministry of caring for people, expressing the instruction to care for the weak and vulnerable as we share the love of God in our communities. Safeguarding is the sometimes uncomfortable or downright difficult part of that, but is something we are all responsible for – learning the signs that cause concern and informing the right people at the right time. In most situations, that’s the Parish Safeguarding Officer.

PSO’s are the beating heart on the ground, ensuring compliance and the point of first contact. The role is undisputably critical to helping make the Church of England safer, more transparent and accountable to those who’s needs it seeks to meet. It is also true that those undertaking this role have not always received the recognition, training and empowerment they deserve in discharging such a crucial duty on behalf of all involved in the church.

One year ago, Lichfield Diocese introduced area based safeguarding leads and held the first PSO conference targeted at recognising and empowering our PSO’s. In 2026 we are again looking to build on this inaugural event with a second conference to be held at Telford Minster on Saturday 7 November 2026.

Introduced by Bishop Sarah the event will have representatives present from Thirty One Eight, NSPCC and many other Safeguarding sector organisations. Our emphasis this year is working with those surviving abuse and our keynote speaker will be Sally Hope, author of ‘No visible Scars’, who will be exploring Christian focused work with survivors of domestic abuse. Lunch and refreshments will be provided and there will be ample opportunity to meet and talk with Senior Clergy, Safeguarding team members and our partner agencies.

As Diocese Safeguarding Officer I cannot express my awe, respect and gratitude for the work of PSO’s in the parish enough. I have been

Everything we do is driven by you (cont.)

astounded time and time again by the sheer commitment and quality of the work undertaken. I thank PSO's on behalf of the diocesan safeguarding team for the continued determination, commitment and professionalism PSO's show in this often-difficult role. PSO's help make a difference every day and myself and the team look forward to thanking those attending in person on 7 November.

Neil Spiring
Diocese Safeguarding Officer.

If you are or know of PSO or have a church role that supports safeguarding in a parish, a place at the event can be booked online via lichfield.anglican.org/diocesan-safeguarding-conference.
For more information about safeguarding, visit lichfield.anglican.org/safeguarding

DIOCESE OF LICHFIELD
GOING FOR GROWTH

Prayer For Joy in God's Creation

O heavenly Father, who has filled the world with beauty: Open our eyes to behold your gracious hand in all your works; that, rejoicing in your whole creation, we may learn to serve you with gladness; for the sake of him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

From The Book of Common Prayer, p. 814

Tales from the Towpath

Hello Everyone,

Another month has flown by! The morning and evenings are getting darker and some mornings now are very chilly as I take the dogs out so please think about our boaters on the canal facing the winter to come. This last month involved some new experiences for me – I was privileged to conduct a boater's funeral at Bradwell Crematorium. It was an honour to support the boater's family, especially as I had only known them for a short time. I also attended a variety of appointments accompanying different boaters ranging from hospital and medical appointments to benefits appeal tribunals. I am slowly learning more about the benefits system and am getting more conversant with Equality Adjustment Forms and benefits applications.



This month was the WWC Annual Celebration and Thanksgiving Day held in Rugby. It is great to get together with fellow chaplains from all around the country and to hear different news stories.

Also, this month I did some off my patch towpath walks – one with a prospective chaplain along the Caldon Canal, and two with probationary chaplains on the Staffs and Worcester Canal at Penkridge and the Trent & Mersey at Great Haywood. It is good to get to know other chaplains' 'patches' and see the issues each faces.



This morning I attended a consultation meeting with some other Chaplains with the the Archbishops' Secretary for Appointments, Stephen Knott, and the Prime Minister's Appointments Secretary, Jonathan Hellewell,

Tales from the Towpath (cont.)

concerning the appt of our new Diocesan Bishop, It was good to be invited to attend together with colleagues from chaplaincies in schools, universities, industry and football clubs to discuss the appointment of the next Bishop of Lichfield. The questions asked were:-

- What fills you with joy and hope about the ministry and mission of the Church in the Diocese of Lichfield?
- What are the challenges and frustrations, and what would you like to change?
- What gifts, qualities and experience do you think are needed in an incoming Bishop?

(see also Roger's article on page …….. concerning the process)
N.B.The Secretaries were very interested in Waterways Chaplaincy!!!



This afternoon I am off to Stone Community Hub for a meeting. I would like to acknowledge the supportive work carried out by all those at the Stone Community Hub – they are the ones who provide food parcels, warm spaces, advice and activities for all those in need in our town, including boaters – they are wonderful. Also, a big thank you to my friends at Canal Cruising who are a fantastic support to the boaters and often go the extra mile to help.

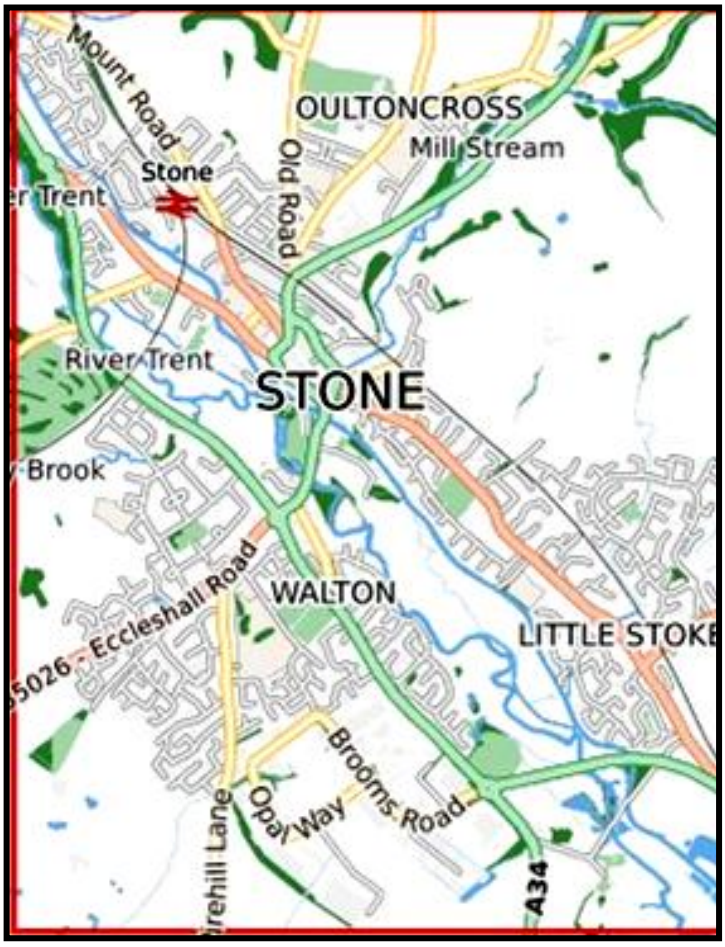
Now I am busy making the WWC/Canal Cruising Advent Window ready to go up in December!

Please do pray for all boaters and users of the canal network and towpaths. God bless. ***Helen*** **15/10/26**

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/

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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	Shelagh Saunders
Treasurer	Pete Kelly
Envelopes.Gift Aid	Lynda Marengi

FLOWER ROTA		**WELCOMER**	
Nov 1st		Nov 1st	Jean Coulcher
Nov 8th	Remembrance	Nov 8th	Paul Price
Nov 15th	Flower Guild	Nov 15th	Pete Kelly
Nove 22nd		Nove 22nd	Eloise Kingman
Nov 29th	Diana Tunstall	Nov 29th	Marilyn Overall

CHURCH REGISTERS	BAPTISMS
	WEDDINGS
	FUNERALS

ROADS FOR PRAYER

Nov 2nd	**Nov 16th**	**Nov 30th**
Caldon Way	Darwin Close	Granville Terrace
Cameron Wharf	Dixon Close	Harding Grove
Candler Drive	Dominic Court	Harecastle Bank
Cauldon Way	Edward Street	Hartley Drive
Nov 9th	**Nov 23rd**	
Chandlers Way	Elmhurst Way	
Chestnut Grove	Field House Court	
Cressy Close	Field Terrace	
Cross St	Goodhall Close	