

Christ Church and People

Parish Magazine of
Christ Church Stone

40p

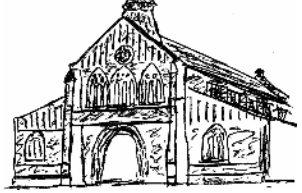


January 2018

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Christ Church



and People

Please get your contributions for the February magazine to us by the 15th January

Cover Picture:-

Field Terrace

The magazine costs 40p per issue or £4 for a full year.

Subscriptions

If you would like this magazine delivered to you regularly, please contact:
Church Office 01785 811990

January 2018

Mon	1		
Tue	2	10:00 am	Coffee before midweek service; service at 10:30
Wed	3		
Thu	4	1:20 pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	5	10:00 am	CE coffee morning
Sat	6	8:30 am	Prayer meeting followed by breakfast
Sun	7	11:00 am	Joint Covenant service with Revd. John Libby 2 Tim 4:1-5 "spread the word" Followed by bring-and-share lunch
Mon	8	9:30 am 6:30 pm	Toddler group Breathe yrs 5-8
Tue	9	10:00 am 12:30 pm 3:00 pm 7:00 pm	Coffee before midweek service; service at 10:30 Seekers Club Autumn House service Youth Club
Wed	10	9:00 am 6:00 pm 7:30 pm	Christ Church First School assembly KingZone yrs 2-4 Standing Committee
Thu	11	10:30 am 11:00 am 1:20 pm	Open prayer time in church St Mary's Home Communion Christ Church First School assembly
Fri	12	10:00 am	CE coffee morning
Sat	13		
Sun	14	9:15 am 6:00 pm	Morning Prayer; Mark 1:1-15 "Introducing Jesus" Showing of Martin Luther documentary
Mon	15	9:30 am 6:30 pm	Toddler group Breathe yrs 5-8
Tue	16	10:00 am 12:30 pm 7:00 pm	Coffee before midweek service; service at 10:30 Seekers Club Youth Club

Wed	17	9:00 am 6:00 pm	Christ Church First School assembly KingZone yrs 2-4
Thu	18	10:30 am 1:20 pm	CTiS week of prayer for Christian unity Communion service, St Michael's Stone Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	19	10:00 am	CE coffee morning
Sat	20	8:30 am 10:00 am	Ecumenical prayer meeting at CC then breakfast Midlands Gospel Partnership conference Nottingham
Sun	21	9:15 am 6:00 pm	Communion; Mark 1:21-39 "The Kingdom is near" United service at Stone Baptists (Youth Centre)
Mon	22	9:30 am 12:00 am 6:30 pm	Toddler group St Saviour's Aston, service followed by lunch Breathe yrs 5-8
Tue	23	10:00 am 12:30 pm 7:00 pm	Coffee before midweek service; service at 10:30 Seekers Club Youth Club
Wed	24	9:00 am 6:00 pm 7:30 pm 7:30 pm	Christ Church First School assembly KingZone yrs 2-4 PCC meeting Taize worship, St Dominic's Church
Thu	25	1:20 pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	26	10:00 am	CE coffee morning
Sat	27		
Sun	28	9:15 am 6:00 pm	Family service; Mark 2:1-12 "His power to forgive" UCCF evening with Olivia Rigby
Mon	29	9:30 am 6:30 pm	Toddler group Breathe yrs 5-8
Tue	30	10:00 am 12:30 pm 7:00 pm	Coffee before midweek service; service at 10:30 Seekers Club Youth Club
Wed	31	9:00 am 6:00 pm	Christ Church First School assembly KingZone yrs 2-4

Fairtrade goods will be on sale after the service on January 28th

Making an appearance

It's that month! After all the feasting of Christmas comes the fasting of January. Some have renamed it 'Dry January' (soft drinks only) or even the more recent 'Veganuary' (meat and animal product free) for the whole month.

Just before you do so, there is a reason to keep celebrating! A lesser-known festival has inspired the church since about the year 200 A.D. It lands on 6th January and has been known to be an eight-day feast that was cut down to one day. Why celebrate?

The word Epiphany (from the Greek *epiphaneia*) means manifestation or appearance and is derived from a verb meaning "to appear." In the New Testament the word is used in reference either to the birth of Christ or to his appearance after his resurrection, and five times to refer to his second coming (his return at the end of the age). It is associated with the visit of the Magi (Matthew 2v1-12) when Jesus appeared to the non-Jewish, or Gentile, world.

The appearance of Jesus Christ to the Gentile world is a very big deal in the New Testament. The angels included the germ of this idea in Jesus' birth announcement, when they proclaimed to the shepherds that his birth was good news for the whole world, a Saviour has been born who is Christ the Lord. The welcoming of Gentiles stands out in the gospel accounts as the promise begins to be worked out on a much grander scale. By the time you get into the history of the early church in the Acts of the Apostles then the uniting of Jew and Gentile (previously two hostile groups) is made possible through the cross of Christ. Jesus made a new covenant in his blood – a new way of approach to God was established through the death and resurrection of Jesus. The apostle Paul revelled in the fulfilment of many Old Testament promises, for example: *'Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people'* and also -

(continued)



Making an appearance *(cont)*

'The root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations the Gentiles will hope in him' (Romans 15v10, 12 which quotes from the Old Testament). The Messiah (or Christ) is for Jew and Gentile alike. We are all to put our faith in him.

Will this year be the year that you will consider Jesus for the first time, or engage with the gospel message more deeply? Why not take the opportunity to make an appearance yourself at our Sunday services and begin to see more clearly the Christ?

May God grant you many blessings in the year ahead as you do this!

Paul Kingman

Covenant service speaker John Libby

Langham Partnership is a global fellowship working in pursuit of the vision God entrusted to its founder, John Stott, to strengthen the growth of the church in maturity and Christlikeness through raising the standards of biblical preaching and teaching, especially in the Majority World. The name "Langham" comes from All Souls Church, Langham Place, in London, where John Stott ministered. Langham works alongside Christian leaders around the world, equipping them with skills and tools needed to teach and preach God's Word to grow the church with depth and maturity. This is done through three programme streams - Langham Preaching, Langham Scholars and Langham Literature. Everyday, we hear stories of congregations and communities being changed, new ministries being started and indigenous leaders catching the vision and running with it. Our aim is to see the effective preaching of God's Word equipping God's people for their mission in the world.

John Libby spent 16 years in international banking with significant experience in senior financial management in the UK and USA, taking a break to read Economics at Cambridge. Later, after training at Ridley Hall, he was ordained in the Church of England, and following assistant roles at St Andrew's, Enfield and Emmanuel, Northwood, he spent 18 years as vicar of St. James, Carlisle. *(continued)*

John Libby *(cont)*

As a Christian entrepreneur, John initiated several Christian charitable enterprises including The Keppleway Trust which grew out of his leading a range of CPAS Venture teams. He remains an Hon Canon of Carlisle cathedral, is an NSM at St Michael's, Carlisle, and for his day job is the National Director of the Langham Partnership UK & Ireland. He sits on several boards including Five Talents UK and the Diocesan OpShops Network. Married to Daphne and after 3 children have 'flown the nest', John maintains an interest in tropical (Discus) fish and is a keen follower of Newcastle Falcons rugby.

I'm looking forward to joining you on 7th Jan.
with Christian greetings, *John*

*John Libby is our preacher at the covenant service at 11.00am on 7th January 2018 which is followed by a bring and share lunch: CC, Stone **savouries**, St John's and All Saints **desserts**.*

Advent Windows 2017

The Advent Windows started out on Day 1 with an excellent display from St Michael's First School at the Co-op Funeral Care Shop on Stone High Street. This year the Theme was 'The Christmas Cast' so all the characters involved in the Christmas story were focused on each day, starting with Isaiah an Old Testament Prophet right through to Mary, Joseph, Jesus and the Shepherds as we moved through the month.

About 50 children came on Day One and their singing of the carol – 'Unto us a Child is Born' – was superb and enjoyed by all. The carol fitted perfectly with the theme and as you can see from the photo the display was excellent. We were honoured that the Mayor of Stone – Jim Davies – joined us for the grand opening.

2017 is the eighth year of Advent Windows - such an excellent way to spread the good news of Jesus in our town!!!

Helen



Jesus the Man

Jesus didn't have a bank account, credit card or cash
 He didn't have expensive tastes, or clothes to cut a dash
 He didn't advertise himself or set out to impress
 Or try to curry favour with American Express!
 He didn't spend his time, wondering what to wear
 Or choose his closest friends from suave and debonair
 He didn't have expense accounts or allowance from his dad
 In fact by modern standards, his prospects were quite bad
 He didn't write a book, or paint a work of art
 He had a poor upbringing, a very humble start
 He was a lowly carpenter, working hard and long
 If he was going to make a mark, his position was quite
 wrong.

He didn't own a mansion or a stately country home
 Or call upon a chauffeur when he began to roam
 He travelled, preaching, sleeping rough with common fishing
 types
 He didn't lead an army or fight for human rights
 He didn't do heroic deeds and gain an O.B.E
 The nobility wouldn't dream of inviting him for tea!
 He didn't hold an office, no credentials but himself
 Nothing to command his life in prestige or in wealth
 He didn't go to Cambridge and gain an Honours First
 His popularity wasn't great, it went from bad to worse
 He didn't hit the headlines when he died at 33
 YET HIS CRUCIFIXION CHANGED THE COURSE OF HISTORY!

For no man then and no man since, has commanded such devo-
 tion

Has inspired so many people and stirred up such emotion
 No king that ever reigned has wielded so much power
 No other living presence can be with us every hour
 This man with no advantages, underprivileged, deprived
 Preached a loving gospel which through the years has thrived
 Turning men to martyrs, rogues to holy saints
 What makes this man so special, what are his secret traits?
 The answer is so simple, it has stumped the proud and wise
 For God himself in Jesus, walked this earth before our eyes
 Into our ordinary lives, his blessed feet have trod
 The Word made flesh in Jesus, the Christ, the Son of God!

Janet Gilham

Churches Together in Stone

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Thursday 18th to Wednesday 24th January 2018

- | | |
|--|---------|
| <u>Thursday 18th</u> | 10.30am |
| St Michael's Church | |
| Holy Communion followed by coffee | |
|
 | |
| <u>Saturday 20th</u> | 8.30am |
| Christ Church | |
| Ecumenical prayer meeting followed by breakfast | |
|
 | |
| <u>Sunday 21st</u> | 6.00pm |
| United service hosted by Stone Baptists | |
| Stone Youth & Community Centre, Station Road | |
|
 | |
| <u>Monday 22nd</u> | 12 Noon |
| St Saviour's Church, Aston | |
| Short act of worship together followed by simple lunch | |
|
 | |
| <u>Tuesday 23rd</u> | 10.00am |
| Christ Church | |
| Coffee followed at 10.30am by Holy Communion | |
|
 | |
| <u>Wednesday 24th</u> | 7.30pm |
| St Dominic's Church | |
| Taize Worship | |

<h2>Mission Prayer Diary</h2>	
	<i>Kieran and Ashley McKnight are with Emmanuel Church in UAE. People in the Church come from many countries. Kieran of course was Youth Minister at Christ Church .</i>
1 st	Pray for the rulers of UAE, Sheikh Hamad bin Mohammed Al Sharqi (ruler of Fujairah), Sheikl Khalilifa (Emir of Abu Dhabi), and Sheikh Mohammad Crown Prince of Dubai). Pray for the continued peace and freedom of this region
2 nd	Ashley attended a Simeon Trust workshop on Biblical Exposition. Pray for all the UAE churches represented at the conference, that they would grow strong in teaching.
3 rd	Emmanuel Church will be taking young people to Sri Lanka early in January, working with a local church there. Pray for all the preparations, and that many young people will be able to go on the trip.
4 th	The women's discipleship community has found it difficult to meet due to unpredictable schedules. Pray for wisdom as they think about the best time to meet.
	<i>Stephen and Tabita Bell help run a new church in Zagreb</i>
5 th	A youth group meets regularly, the meetings starting at 7 and sometimes going on quite late. Pray for these young people as they leave school and embark upon adult life
6 th	Pray for the Dugo Selo church, still very small and meeting in a hired room, that it will be able to bring in people who live close to the church
7 th	The MuziKids singing group has now been seen on National TV; pray that this may help their mission. Their occasional concerts bring in friends, family, neighbours and school friends to hear the gospel message.

8 th	Churches in Albania still struggle to keep going; their financial resources are weak and the government is not always supportive, viewing all outside religious influences with suspicion
	<i>The Bible Society has a “Bible a month club” which provides Bibles to a different country each month. In January, Bibles will be distributed in Central African Republic</i>
9 th	Pray for peace in this war-torn nation.
10 th	Some places are too dangerous to visit because of the fighting-pray that a way will be found for the Bible Society team to go there safely.
11 th	The Bible Society would like to develop further a small literacy programme among women, and set up small kiosks to sell Bibles.
12 th	Pray for 20 women attending the literacy class in CAR, that their lives will be transformed as they learn this vital life skill.
	<i>Tim and Kate Lee helped to set up JigSaw Kids Ministries in Manila (Philippines). Now they live in the UK but still support and fund-raise for JigSaw. They are our CMS Link Missionaries</i>
13 th	Manila is a hard place for poor people; many families live in boxes or trailers on the street and are vulnerable to disease and exploitation.
14 th	Jigsaw now employs 30+ staff from the communities in which it works, running kids’ clubs, school sponsorship, emergency welfare, disability groups, mothers’ groups and much more.
15 th	Pray for over 1500 children ministered to by Jigsaw in 4 urban areas.
16 th	Disability support groups meet in local houses, and this works very well, creating parent support networks.

	<i>Jonathan and Robinah Beesigomwe live in Gaborone, Botswana. Their organisation is “Bows and Arrows Ministry”, and they work with older schoolchildren and young adults. Please pray about–</i>
17 th	Continuing work in Francistown, close to the Zimbabwe border, running training courses for teachers, Sunday School teachers and Youth workers
18 th	The general situation in Zimbabwe. Pray for the new leader Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa- may he work harder to support the poor in his country.
19 th	Young married couples, facing difficult financial situations.
20 th	Continuing official permissions to visit and work in schools. Jonathan has had no problems, but this must be renewed each year.
	<i>Tear Fund prayer requests</i>
21 st	Pray for the nation of Cambodia and the millions of people there living in poverty. As the country’s economy grows, pray that the government will prioritise development for impoverished communities.
22 nd	Pray for all those preparing to volunteer with Tearfund in the next year, that God will ready their hearts and minds, and that they too will return closer to him and more in touch with his call on their lives.
23 rd	Pray for Tearfund’s HIV programme in Chad, where 3.3 per cent of the population is affected by HIV, and for the churches that are offering counselling and support to those living with AIDS.
24 th	In the 2016/2017 financial year, Tear Fund spent M£26.4 responding to emergencies. Pray that Tear Fund will be ready in 2018 to carry on this tremendous work.

	<i>Scripture Union works in the UK and other countries to promote reading of the Bible</i>
25 th	Pray for Robin Gerrard, development worker in the north-west of England, as he works with Atherton Baptist Church on a pop-up mission.
26 th	The SU event leaders' conference takes place today, planning and praying about summer camps and missions
27 th	The Schools Worker Christian Project is looking for a new full-time worker in Oswestry. Pray that the right person might be appointed
28 th	God kept safe all the SU workers in Lahore, Pakistan, when a bomb exploded near their office recently. Pray for their continued safety as they do their work.
	<i>The Church Mission Society works in 49 countries</i>
29 th	PERU Church minister Anderson Sanchez delivers school assemblies in the Santa Trinidad Anglican School in Lima. Pray for open doors and open hearts.
30 th	ARGENTINA Pray for Charles Barr Johnston in Salta. Well into his eighties, Charles continues to preach, lead services and hold weekly Bible studies.
31 st	BRAZIL Jimmy and Katia Rocks are planting churches in Florianopolis, and helping others to do the same. Last year they started a monthly worship and intercession service called "Buscai" (a command to seek).

Resolution

“Life with mixed emotions”, that’s how I would describe my life in 2017. It has been a life-changing year for so many reasons, lots of activities, events, experiences and exciting things to be grateful for. In some cases, life has been hectic, erratic, challenging, demanding, inspiring and joyous too. I could write a book. In the midst of all these, I can’t recall a single day in the last 12 months where I had to pause and had a personal meditation and reflection. Obviously, I think through things carefully and talk to friends, relative, parents and pray about things, but setting few minutes aside for meditation and reflection has been a neglected area in 2017 for me. Therefore, my New Year’s Resolution for 2018 is ‘*Meditation and Reflection Practice*’, the aim is to set aside time (10 – 20 minutes at least) each day to meditate and reflect on my daily, weekly or monthly activities that have occupied my life.

How I got motivated? To tell you the truth, I am not a New Year resolution person, I don’t remember having one. During the month of November this year, my daily Bible reading from Word for Today has been focusing on the theme of meditation, the writer put the opening sentence this way: “Meditation isn’t something difficult and mysterious that only scholars and ‘spiritual’ people do. It’s just thinking deeply and continuously about a passage of Scripture, letting it take root, and ‘owning it’ until it becomes a life force operating within you each day. The point isn’t how much Scripture you memorise, it’s what happens to you in the process. It enriches your thinking and equips you by making you think different thoughts than if you were watching TV, for example, or texting, or talking on your mobile phone, or shopping. Meditating on God’s Word is the cure for moral and spiritual weakness; for a life with no focus; for a lack of intimacy with God...”.

I know there is scientific evidence as well that show the many benefits of meditation. To name just a few, meditating helps to improve your mood, it reduces stress, it lessens anxiety, and it even increases your brain’s grey matter — which is involved in muscle control, sensory perception, decision making, and self-control. In today’s busy world, setting time for meditation is challenging, but once you get the hang of it, meditating is easy to do. *(continued)*

Resolution *(cont)*

My goal is not to help me improve my mood, or reduce work stress, or to be spiritually stronger or weaker, and it's nothing to do with those things that I have mentioned above. For sure they are a great motivation, but they are not my target goals as such. My goal is to experience that moment of quietness, and have that personal meditation to reflect on my daily activities for a full year or longer and hope it to be my habit. For sure I expect that a well devoted and planned meditation and reflection to have some sort of impact, but I am not sure what the impacts would be by December 2018, but one thing I know "I won't regret it". To get motivated and set a reminder, I am hoping to get something unusual, a prayer kneeler for Christmas, else I will buy one, that will be a good reminder for me on my daily, weekly and monthly meditation. Your prayers, tips, ideas, encouragements etc. are most welcome. *Anisa*

An upcoming birthday

We don't normally mention birthdays, but in 2018 the church building will be 150 years old, and perhaps we can make an exception! An excerpt follows from the church website:-

"During the late 18th century and 19th century the Industrial Revolution caused an enormous increase in England's population, and coupled with an evangelical revival, St Michael's building was not big enough. In 1836 the Rev. Charles Simeon attended a conference at Meaford Hall with Lord St Vincent and the Rev. Francis Kitchin, a curate at St Michael's, and they decided to form a new parish to serve the north end of the town. The site was given by Lord Granville and the building money was raised by public subscription. The first stone was laid on June 28, 1838, by the Right Hon Mary Anne, Viscountess St Vincent, the same day Queen Victoria was crowned. The church took two years to build and was consecrated on April 23, 1840, by the then Bishop of Lichfield. Francis Kitchin was the first vicar at Christ Church or 'perpetual curate' as he was known and he held the living until he died in 1852".

Just a Little Donkey...

On a snowy Sunday in Advent a little donkey stood all alone under a black plastic shopping bag in a garden. Inside he could hear people laughing, as they drank glasses of port and ate Portuguese Christmas biscuits. They were admiring a beautiful Nativity scene, and wondering if this was the 'Advent Window' they had come to see.

How could it be? An Advent Window should be viewed from outside a building. 'Was there no 'window' at the Mill this year?', they asked each other.

At 11.00am everyone was encouraged to go back outside to 'open the window'. The black bag was removed and there in the garden stood a little grey donkey waiting to carry Mary to Bethlehem... relevant Bible verses were read and then, standing in the snow, we sang:.

*Been a long time little donkey
Thro' the winter's night.
Don't give up now little donkey
Bethlehem's in sight...*

*Little donkey, carry Mary
Safely on her way*

It never ceases to amaze me how beautifully each 'window' display illustrates the Advent story. Now in it's 8th year, the Advent Windows project has become an established part of the Christmas festivities in Stone. The enthusiasm and creativeness of the different groups of children and adults has not waned over the years. One of the greatest delights is overhearing a young child telling friends and relatives – 'I made that star... or angel... or donkey'.

Praise God for the opportunities we have to share the real meaning and purpose of Christmas with everyone in Stone.

Elizabeth Nix

Turning over a new leaf?

No, this is not about New Year Resolutions. To be honest, I have never kept any for more than a few weeks and have now given them up entirely!

However there's a similar problem with lists of names that I write down for prayer. They are penned with enthusiasm and care, and for a week or two the list is a help. Then the prayer gets missed for a day or two and, to my shame, I have even been known to forget where I put the list!

Chatting with people about their prayer life, has led me to the conclusion that this is not only my problem.

So why not get out the scissors and cut that list up?

Not to destroy it, you understand, but to make each name into a separate slip of paper. These are then placed in one of two containers. Each day you take a slip of paper from the first receptacle; pray for that person and then put them in the second container, handing them over to God's loving care as you do so.

Don't pray for too many people each day, about three is a good number. Interestingly, if your list had about twenty names, at this rate after just a week everyone will be prayed for and you simply swap the bowls over and start again.

Using this method helps you to really concentrate on the people who suddenly, unexpectedly come before you, "out of the hat" as it were. Occasionally you may feel a particular concern for the person named on the slip of paper in front of you. This may nudge you into giving them a quick phone call.

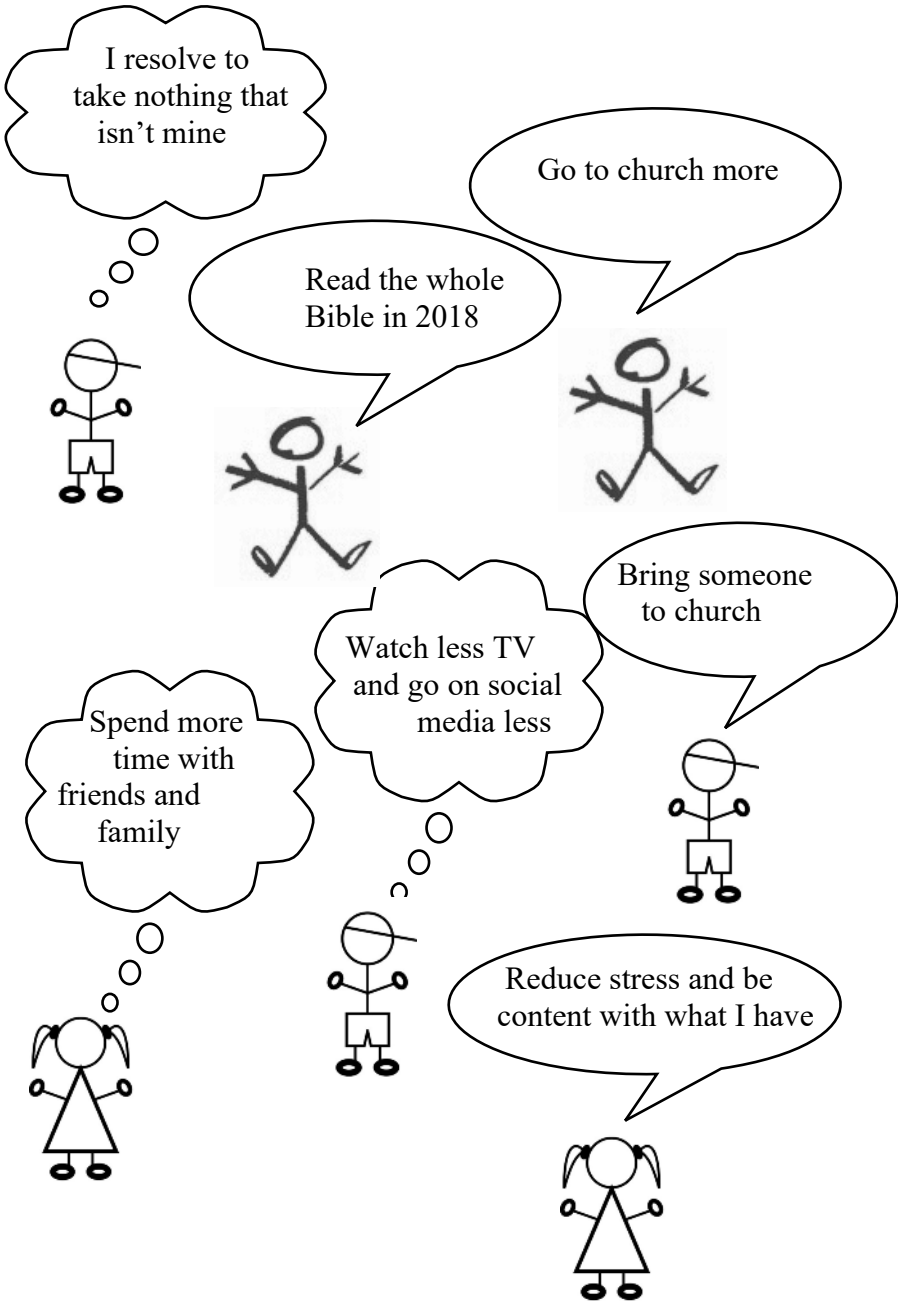
It's not uncommon in these circumstances to find that the person you phoned is going through a particular crisis and is deeply moved that you have remembered them.

Is this just a co-incidence? If we believe that the Holy Spirit guides us and leads us maybe its far more wonderful than just chance.

If you are finding your prayer list a bit of a burden, why not give this method a try? Each time you randomly draw out a name, you could think of it as "turning over a new leaf"!

Roger M. Vaughan

New Year Resolutions



Some resolutions that church people are making for 2018

It happened on January the 1st

45 BC

The Julian calendar came into use

404 AD

Last gladiatorial contest took place in Rome

1600

Scottish years first began on Jan 1st instead of March 25th

1660

Samuel Pepys made the first entry in his diary

1772

Traveller's cheques went on sale for the first time in London

1785

First edition of "The Times", then called "Daily Universal Register"

1788

The Quakers in Pennsylvania became the first Americans to free their slaves

1801

The Irish Parliament voted to join the Kingdom of Great Britain, forming the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland

1818

"Frankenstein", by Mary Shelley, was published anonymously

1863

The Emancipation Proclamation, by Abraham Lincoln, freed all slaves in the Confederate states.

1880

Work started on the Panama canal

1881

Dr John H Watson first met Sherlock Holmes

1892

Ellis Island became the immigration gateway for New York

1894

The Manchester Ship Canal opened to shipping

1923

The USSR was established

Christ Church 132 years ago

We wish you all a truly happy and blessed New Year. May it be one of increased usefulness in the Master's service! Thus shall there be increased experience of the Master's blessing: only let us strive to do all things for His sake, and we shall never grow weary in well doing: the sameness of our daily life will lose its monotony in the freshness of each day's personal consecration to our Lord. We would draw attention to the increased facilities for attending Holy Communion. There will be two administrations in the month at 8am, one at morning and one evening services: also in the afternoon at Meaford whenever there is a 5th Sunday. Our object is to meet the special needs of all, while giving preference to the early Communion as that which is most desirable: it is then the spirit is fresh and the mind most free from weariness, and if we are engaged in any special work for the Master-it is helpful to begin the day with a service in which we are taught that we are not alone, but members one of another and co-workers. I would also hint that to the young Christian athlete, it helps to preserve from that bane of many a Christian's life, late rising on Sunday mornings. Let us in the New Year "Go forward". Go forward in the paths of obedience and in trust, ever looking to Jesus our Lord and Saviour.

W.J Thompson (vicar)

Temperance and Mutual Improvement Meetings

The first of the Monthly Meetings for Improvement and Debate was held in the Upper School-room, on Monday, January 11th. The subject being "Local Option". The attendance was large and most encouraging. A paper was read on the subject by Rev. A. Pearman, showing the importance from the failure of past legislation to check the great excess in drinking. The principle of local option (i.e. the control by the people over the licensing system, either by decreasing the present number of public-houses or in the granting of new licenses) has been endorsed by Parliament, the Lower House of Convocation and many eminent Statesmen. An animated debate followed, led by Dr. E. Fernie. The discussion was carried on with great spirits, and speaks well for the future of our Society. We were glad to see so many ladies present to show their interest in our undertaking.

Charles Wesley's visit to Stone

The below was found in researches by my Uncle, a Methodist Minister, whilst researching Wesley for work he is involved in at Gwennap Pit in Cornwall.

In Mrs. (Charles) Wesley's old age, she used to relate the experiences of these days (i.e. when she rode pillion with her husband on his preaching tours in their early marriage before the children arrived) with a great deal of humour. One day she and her husband arrived at Stone in Staffordshire, and she sat down to rest in the inn garden which adjoined the parsonage grounds. She was singing a Methodist hymn to herself when the Vicar and his daughters came to their side of the hedge and listened, complimented her upon her voice and asked for her help in the choir the following Sunday. She said she would be happy to sing if her husband might preach, but when the Vicar understood who she was, he declined to lend his pulpit, even with such an inducement.

No date is given in the book - but the visit to Stone would have been between April, 1749, when Charles Wesley & Sarah Gwynne were married near Brecon, and 1756 when he gave up being an itinerant preacher. The oldest child (of 8, only 3 survived), was John, born 1752, who died of small pox (caught from his mother) a year later. So that could mean Sarah was journeying with him for around three years only, i.e. 1749 to 1752

Andy Stone

Price held for 10 years!

The Christ Church magazine price was increased from 30p to 40p in January 2008, and has been held constant for 10 years!

REGISTERS AND ROTAS

BAPTISMS

12th November Sebastian James Williams
 26th November Neil Charles Hopkins

SIDESPERSIONS ROTA

		AM
7 th Jan	J. Kelt	A. Smith
	R. Brandon	P. Roberts
14 th Jan	P. Kelly	D. Pickles
	E. Kingman	c. Reeve
21 st Jan	J. Abrahams	G. Holden
	G. Leithead	N. Hopkins
28 th Jan	D. Wilson	K. Woodward
	D. Davies	L. Fforde



CONFIRMATION

26th November Neil Charles Hopkins
 26th November Verity Elizabeth Kingman
 26th November Janet Webb

FLOWER ROTA

7 th Jan	Flower Guild	14 th Jan	Flower Guild
21 st Jan	Flower Guild	28 th Jan	Flower Guild

ROADS FOR PRAYER

7th January

The Crescent
 End Granville Terr
 Millers Gate
 Hartley Drive

14th January

Albert Street
 Alexandra Street
 Arthur Street
 Berkeley Street

21st January

Chestnut Grove
 Edward Street
 Field Terrace
 Field House Court

28th January

Kent Grove
 Meaford Avenue
 Mount Avenue
 Mount Crescent



Deanery Synod Reps	Helen Bowes
P.C.C. Members	Kate Latham, Irene Gassor, Pete Kelly, Sue Fox Pete Mason, Estella Woodhead Peter Rein, G. Leithead, Angela Burton Rab Shields, Louise Kelly, Debbie Hazlehurst
Secretary	Shelagh Sanders
Treasurer	
Envelopes, Gift Aid	Richard Latos

GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

Climbers 3-7 years

Explorers 7-11 years Estella Woodhead.....761659

Banner Group Jeanette Rowlands.....261199

Church Missionary Boxes Church Office.....811990

Flower Guild Marylyn Hillman.....815936

Prayer Group Jeanette Rowlands.....261199

Parents & Toddlers Sandra Morray.....286093

(Mon 9.30 – 11.15am)

3rd Stone Brownies Janet Smith..... 815939

(Mon 6:00-7:30pm, First School)

Young People's Activities take place in the Centre during the Sunday morning service except on the fourth Sunday in the month, which is the family service.

Climbers 3-7 years **Junior Church** 7-13 years

The following activities take place every week in the Centre during term time.

Monday Toddlers 9.30 am **Breathe** (years 5-8) Monday 6:30 pm

Kingzone (years 2-4) Wednesday 6:00 pm

Please send material for the magazine to

Dave Bell, c/o Christ Church Parish Office, Christ Church Way,
Staffs ST15 8ZB or by email to christchurch_mag@yahoo.co.uk

Christ Church on the Internet

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