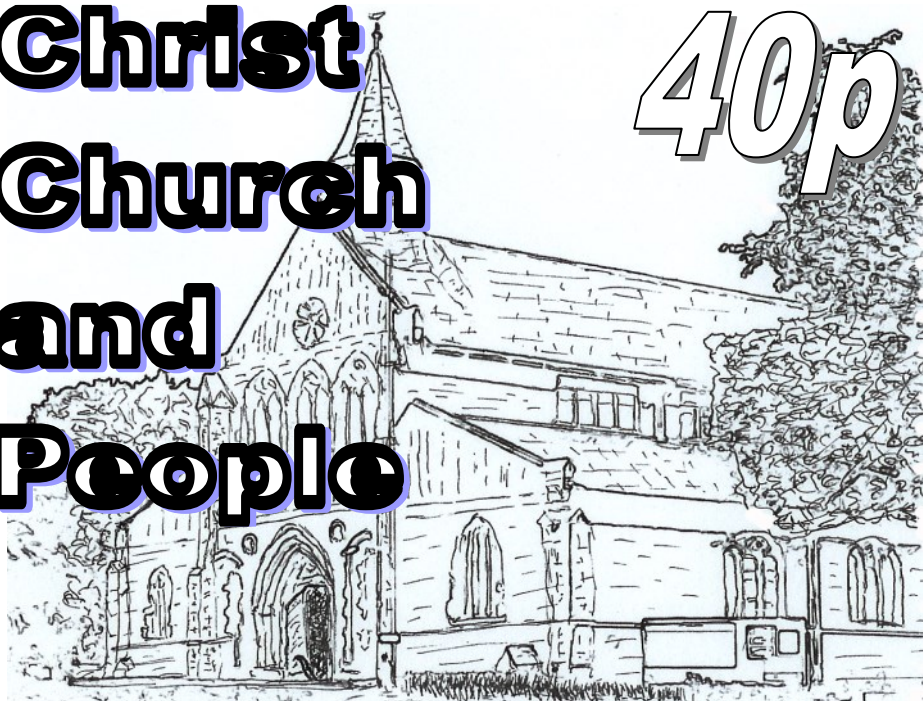


Christ Church and People

40p



June 2023

PARISH DIRECTORY

SUNDAY SERVICES

Details of our services are given on page 4.

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: Mr C. Wright MAEd		01785 334900

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Christ Church



and People

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

Cover Picture
Corner of King's
Avenue

Magazine 40p each
month or £4 each year.
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

June 2023

	Date	Time	Events (Zoom codes in weekly email)
Thu	1st		
Fri	2nd		
Sat	3rd	8:30 am	Prayer meeting followed by breakfast
Sun	4th	9:15 am 6:00 pm	Communion; 2 Chronicles 16 "A reliant king" Pastoral training
Mon	5th	9:30 am	Toddler group
Tue	6th	10:30 am 12:30 pm	Communion; Luke 16:1-15 "Who do you serve?" Pursuit Club
Wed	7th	9:00 am 3:30 pm	Christ Church First School assembly Trekks
Thu	8th	1:10 pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	9th		
Sat	10th		
Sun	11th	9:15 am 6:00 pm	Morning Prayer 2 Chronicles 18:1-27 "A faithful prophet" Pastoral training
Mon	12th	9:30 am	Toddler group
Tue	13th	10:30 am 12:30 pm 2:00 pm	Communion; Luke 16:19-31 "Is it well with your soul?" Pursuit Club Autumn House service
Wed	14th	9:00 am 2:00 pm 3:30 pm	Christ Church First School assembly Oulton Abbey Nursing Home service Trekks
Thu	15th	11:00 am 1:10 pm	St Mary's Home service Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	16th		

June 2023

	Date	Time	Events
Sat	17th		
Sun	18th	9:15 am 6:00 pm	Communion 2 Chronicles 22:10-23:15 "A courageous priest" Pastoral training
Mon	19th	9:30 am	Toddler group
Tue	20th	10:30 am 12:30 pm	Communion; Luke 17:11-19 "Were not all ten cleansed?" Pursuit Club
Wed	21st	9:00 am 3:30 pm 7:00 pm	Christ Church First School assembly Trekks Standing committee
Thu	22nd	1:10 pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	23rd		
Sat	24th		
Sun	25th	9:15 am 6:00 pm	All age service; 2 Chronicles 24:1-16 "A king serving the kingdom" Pastoral training
Mon	26th	9:30 am	Toddler group
Tue	27th	10:30 am 12:30 pm	Communion; Luke 17:20-37 "A kingdom that is now and not yet" Pursuit Club
Wed	28th	9:00 am 3:30 pm	Christ Church First School assembly Trekks
Thu	29th	1:10 pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	30th		

Beyond my world

Another disaster. Another appeal. Another set of pictures to pull at the heart strings. There is an ongoing need to help others in need. One statistic said that over 840 million people worldwide are chronically undernourished. Every day, 26,000 young children die due to poverty, hunger, and preventable diseases. With so many people in such lamentable condition, what motivates Jesus' followers to respond?

The simple answer is the compassion of Jesus: something he showed and something we are to copy. Compassion is a feeling of empathy with the suffering of others, the capacity to feel how others feel. The literal meaning is to suffer with: to enter the pain of another. Jesus showed this: *'When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd'* (Matthew 9v36). Again, 'Jesus called his disciples to him and said, "I have compassion for these people; they have already been with me three days and have nothing to eat. I do not want to send them away hungry, or they may collapse on the way' (Mt 15v32). When aware of the need, we care about the people involved, and we are ready to act on their behalf. Having compassion on a needy person is proof of the love of God within us (I John 3v17); being kind to the needy honours God (Prov 14v31).

Compassion is expressed in three ways:

- Charity is an old word for love, to describe gifts of money, clothing, food; but it does not necessarily involve an investment of our time and talents. Such giving shows a generous nature, but we can remain distant from the needy. So, Jesus' example and teaching are more demanding.



(continued)

- Service: involves us face-to-face with those in need. It can change our natural state of self-centeredness into increasingly selfless people. Jesus puts service at the centre of his ministry: *'For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves'* (Luke 22v24-27). These words were spoken at the start of the Coronation of King Charles in his pledge to serve. This is swims against the tide of our desire to be noticed, affirmed, and to feel significant. But a servant is one who quietly and humbly serves the needs of others regardless of personal recognition and regardless of the status of those we serve.
- Justice transforms the social structures and systems which are producing poverty and suffering. While charity and service seek to heal wounds, it is justice that seeks to end the social structures that create wounded people (for no policy is perfect). Ultimately only the Lord can bring justice at his return *"with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth"* (Isa 11v4).

This explains how Christians have always been involved with care for the poor and hungry, medical assistance and education as they share the good news of redemption with the needy world. The compassionate mercy we have experienced and give thanks for is to overflow to the wider world.

Paul Kingman

8 **Trains in the Garden Saturday 13th May 2023 (1)**

This year the Trains in the Garden event in aid of Jig-Saw Kids Ministries was earlier than usual to coincide with Tim and Kate Lee's visit. Unfortunately, it also coincided with two consecutive Monday Bank Holidays and so getting fliers out to groups like the Toddler Group was done only just in time. Offers of help and donations from those unable to attend started pouring in the week before and so we had already raised £70 before any train left the station.

The weather forecast on the day was for sunshine and no rain which miraculously turned out to be the case and so it went on. Railway and kitchen helpers arrived in the morning and got things ready. Looking at the 4 plates of cake on the table, I worried that there would not be enough and the miracle of Jesus feeding the five thousand crossed my mind. An hour later looking at a table laden down with plates piled with cake I hoped enough people would turn up to consume them all and wondered what we'd do if they didn't. Oh, me of little faith! From 2.30pm on, what started as a steady trickle of visitors gradually got busier as my kitchen team, Enid, Jacqueline, Christine, Gill, Sue and Sheila valiantly made copious drinks and washed-up crockery galore as the cakes gradually disappeared. There were a lot of visitors I did not know and for the first time I reckoned there were more non-church visitors than church members as people brought family and friends and neighbours. We reckon over 120 attended throughout the afternoon.

We did not charge for anything but asked for donations as people were able to give. In previous years we have raised several hundred pounds but this year because of the cost-of-living crisis we did not expect to raise as much. At the end of the day after the last visitor had left and we were able to sit down, it was time to count the money. Imagine our surprise and delight to find we had raised over £1,000 for Jig-Saw Kids Ministries. It was really humbling to realise people had given so generously in such a difficult time. Another miracle in what seemed like a day of miracles!

So many thanks to all those who baked cakes, loaned tea pots and kettles etc. Particular thanks to the helpers who gave of their time to ensure visitors were kept safe round the railway and fed and watered. Most of all a big THANK YOU to all those who gave so generously.

Liz Mason

Trains in the Garden (2)

Saturday 13 May saw the annual 'Trains in the Garden' at Pete and Liz's house. It was a beautiful sunny day. The garden was looking lovely with lots of flowers and trees in bloom. Many families came along to join in the fun. There were children of all ages, parents, grandparents and even adults without children. The trains travelled around the tracks, sometimes being driven by the children and there were signal men, points operators and station officials, ably led by Pete, all making sure everyone had a good time. Up at the house the table was well stocked with home made cakes of all flavours and sizes. The kettle was working overtime producing numerous cups of tea and coffee and there were jugs of juice for those wanting a cooler refreshment.

The kitchen helpers were under the leadership of Liz and got their step counts up retrieving the empties from around the garden. There were collection buckets strategically placed near the train station and the cake table. Tim and Kate Lee, our mission partners who work for this amazing charity were also in attendance and brought information boards with them so we could see photos of the children that are supported and of the activities that they take part in. Thanks to the generosity of those who attended a whopping £1,010 was raised for Jigsaw Kids Ministry. Well done all and thanks to Pete and Liz for a very enjoyable afternoon.

Jacqueline

I've done things
 that'd make you cringe.
They could easily tell
 that I'm guilty as hell.
I thought I'd go out in a blaze of glory.
To die like this, it's a different story.
There's a gruesome place where they take you to be killed
There is death, there is despair, on Skull Hill

There's a guy next to me
 so I turn to see.
It doesn't take long
 to see he's done nothing wrong.
People thought he'd take charge in a blaze of glory.
To die like this, it's a different story.
There's a gruesome place where they take you to be killed
There is death, there is despair, on Skull Hill

Only charge they could bring
 was to say he's a king.
But he's not bad,
 compared with kings that we've had.
Could he save us all in a blaze of glory?
Who knows? But I'd like to be a part of his story.
There's a gruesome place where they take you to be killed
There is death, but why despair? on Skull Hill

Once you're king, just see
 that you remember me.
I heard him say,
 "Yes, later today."
He could save us all in a blaze of glory.
I'm glad I can be just a part of his story.
There's a gruesome place where they take you to be killed
There is death, but not despair, on Skull Hill

(Written by E)

Mission Prayer Diary	
	<i>Church Mission Society</i>
1st	Mission partner Ann-Marie Wilson has dedicated her life to ending female genital mutilation; Pray that God will strengthen her calling and that young girls will be spared from this violence
2nd	Please pray for the foreign inmates of Santa Monica prison, writes Anna Sims who supports female, English speaking prisoners and ex-offenders in Lima, Peru
3rd	Mission partners Daniel and Sarah Brito Madeiros work with ReVive, a safe house for girls at risk in Recife, Brazil, and are involved with local churches. Pray for all those who come to the refuge for help
4th	Local partner Habeeb Kamal shares the gospel with unreached groups in Egypt, South Sudan and Sudan. Pray for God to open up opportunities
	<i>Stephen and Tabita Bell are planting churches in Croatia, working with European Christian Mission</i>
5th	ECM's first biennial conference since 2018 (missing due to Covid!) is being held in Umag, Croatia. Praise the Lord that we can now meet! Pray for us all, for a zeal upgrade, as we sit under God's Word, learn in seminars and enjoy encouraging fellowship
6th	It has been such a delight for our whole church that a whole row of seats is now taken by our friends. It helps us be so evangelistic! A Sikh, Muslim, Hindu as well as Catholic. They are so friendly and honour us with their presence. I, Stephen, translate into English for them over headphones. Please pray for them to give their lives to Jesus.
7th	Please pray for Željko, our neighbour, had an awful stroke 20 months ago and is lying in bed, getting up to do exercises to recover his muscles. . We always pray together. He is an open door, we believe. He is in his time of trial and opportunity!
8th	Ljiljana and Antoneta are our neighbours. Ljiljana's son came to our Dubrava kids' club For years Tabita has shared God's plan of salvation with her – but she still hasn't given in to God.

	<i>TearFund works with many poor communities across the world. They especially work through local churches and agencies</i>
9th	The Philippines is one of the most disaster-prone countries in the world. Tearfund has been approved to join a disaster risk financing pilot supported by Start Network. This project will develop contingency plans for tropical cyclones in northern Philippines. Pray for clear outcomes and opportunities
10th	Pray for the security of our local partners and staff in Haiti and for their families as they work in risky areas, or have to cross risky areas to reach their place of work.
11th	Almost 500,000 refugees in Chad urgently need water, sanitation and hygiene assistance. Pray for people's basic needs to be met and for the 30,000 people who are reported to have crossed into Chad as they have fled the military clashes in Sudan to find a safe place.
12th	Kankhombe Primary School in Salima, Malawi, used to only have four toilets for its 351 schoolchildren. 'The situation was critical – some girls were forced to skip school on certain days of the month,' says headteacher Mr Munyukwi. The high rates of absenteeism are now a thing of the past since Tearfund supported the school to build eight toilet blocks. Pray for Malawian girls still facing period poverty.
	<i>Our CMS Link Missionaries Tim and Kate Lee helped to set up JigSaw Kids Ministries in Manila (Philippines). Please pray-</i>
13th	The Fully Relying On God (FROG) holiday club is back after 2.5 years! Pray for street children who had fun, received meals and heard God's Word
14th	Jigsaw ladies bible studies started online in lockdown and have now flourished and grown to be over 7 bible studies a week. Jigsaw is so excited that the groups are beginning to meet face to face for fellowship, bible study and prayer. This is the first time for all of these ladies to hear the good news of Jesus. It is so very exciting.

15th	100 children have received education through sponsorship
16th	Jigsaw's literacy school is centered in an area of huge need and is bringing hope and life to so many children. The photos show the good news, a young boy learning his letters, a class focused together learning reading, writing and numeracy and most importantly children concentrating on the serious business of playing.
	<i>Jonathan and Robinah Beesigomwe live in Gabarone, Botswana. Their organisation is "Bows and Arrows Ministry", and they work with older schoolchildren and young adults. For technical reasons Christ Church cannot send funds to J&R but individuals are still able to do so</i>
17th	Pray for planned Evangelism training for Four Churches and Training of 100 Sunday School teachers and Youth workers to help reach 40,000 children and Youth with Books of Hope.
18th	Pray for the opportunity for twenty couples to participate in marriage enrichment and holidays to recover from the Lock down Syndrome through our Marriage Fitness Programme.
19th	Pray for successors and organizations we started in Botswana.
20th	Pray that we will be able to start building a house on our land plot in Uganda
21st	Pray that God provides school tuition and upkeep for Jonathan Junior in Nairobi, Kenya. Pray for the relocation process and the reuniting of the family after many years.
	<i>Mission Aviation Fellowship fly medical personnel, supplies and missionaries to far-flung, often inaccessible settlements.</i>
22nd	Children displaced by tribal violence in Papua New Guinea (PNG) find refuge and hope at the MAF supported orphanage, Bible Faith Outreach (BFO).
23rd	Pray that the Lord will bless Rosa Kepo, BFO's director, and the children in the orphanage
24th	MAF flew a team from Wycliffe Timor-Leste (near Indonesia) to deliver the book of Ruth in the Mambae translation to the Christian community in Same. Pray for all who read it

25th	In 2022, MAF flew Princess Anne to visit innovative projects supporting refuges in Uganda. Princess Anne has previously flown with MAF in 2016 to visit cyclone-struck areas of Bangladesh, and attended a MAF conference in Edinburgh. Thank God for royal interest in the work of MAF
	<i>The Bible Society is working in Ukraine</i>
26th	Since February 2022, over 500,000 Bibles have been distributed, many to front-line troops living close to death. Ukrainian Bibles have also been given to refugees in the UK
27th	Bible Society staff have led impromptu services while artillery shells fell nearby. Pray for soldiers on the front line
28th	Bible Society is running Bible summer camps where children who have lost loved ones are comforted through trauma healing programmes,
	<i>Scripture Union works in many countries to bring God's word to all</i>
29th	Pray for SU Portugal as they prepare for 12 Kids Games and summer camps which will be attended by over 400 children
30th	With 6 languages and in 30 countries, pray for the mission of the Guardians of Ancora App. Half of new players join after hearing from friends– praise God that new young people want to hear about the life of Jesus

Earlier this year Tim Lee spent 3 weeks in Manila, working with the Jigsaw team. After 2½ years in lockdown, Jigsaw Ministries are slowly returning to face-to-face meetings. Jigsaw Kids' meetings restarted earlier this year, with their FROGS (Fully Rely On God) Holiday club.

During his visit, Tim reviewed Jigsaw's current situation and their plans for future ministry. In his latest newsletter Tim wrote: *'it became clear that as we entered our 20th year there was a need to both prune and develop parts of Jigsaw in order for it to move forward.'*

A recent statistical review of Pilipino children living in poverty, highlighted one overwhelming problem: 80% of these children face sexual violence and bullying, mainly due to the rapid increase in Cyber-sex. Jigsaw is already helping children traumatised as a result of sexual abuse, but the question now is, what else should Jigsaw do to help combat this horrific and evil reality?

This is where Pandita comes in. Tim had been given a book to read, *Let the Earth Hear Her Voice – the life story of Pandita Ramabai*, written by a friend of Tim's, Dr Keith White. Pandita was born in India, in the 1880's, at a time when women suffered horrific abuse. Her life's goal was to fight for the education and equal treatment of women and girls in India. Amongst other things, Pandita understood that this would take time and believed that it was about starting small, sowing seeds of change through teaching, and empowering abused women.

The Jigsaw team has been totally inspired by her example and have already started to create a teaching programme about the dangers of sexual abuse, as well as the responsibility of adults to love and care for children. Initially, this programme will be offered to existing Jigsaw ladies' groups. Another opportunity to use this programme may be with Jigsaw's very important monthly ministry to parents and guardians, when Jigsaw leaders facilitate discussions on parenting, childcare and bible texts. *(continued)*

The team realise it will take a long time to change the current culture, but they are trusting God to use them to effect changes that will empower children and protect them from sexual abuse.

Please pray for more inspiration, and wisdom, for the Jigsaw team as they prepare a teaching plan for the ladies groups, and new activities about love and care for Jigsaw's kids clubs.

For further information, see Tim's latest newsletter in the folder beneath the Mission Matters Noticeboard in the Church Centre.

Elizabeth

God answers prayers

Paul and Elizabeth Makau, our new Mission Partners, serve as African Inland Mission (AIM) partners in Kenya. Paul lectures at the Africa Inland University (AIU) and has written teaching programmes, such as a Diploma in Missions (General and Islam options), to help pastors working with Muslims and other unreached people groups in Northern Kenya, and in other countries in Africa, including Southern Sudan, Uganda, DR Congo, and Tanzania.

Elizabeth and Paul are also committed to travelling to far away parts of Kenya to teach and support other mission workers. To enable them to do this they need to buy a car, but do not as yet have the funds for this. After much prayer and petitioning, God answered their prayers in an amazing way. As Paul writes in their latest newsletter: *'One of our fellow missionary family, who are in the same team with us have gifted us with their car to own and use it for mission work. Thank God for Matt and Bel and pray for them as they serve along with us. The car had been parked for about two years and we had it serviced, and the rear bushes replaced. We intend to use the car as we raise funds to part exchange it for a stronger off-road vehicle like a land cruiser/Nissan Patrol, to be able to travel far and remote areas to do training and discipleship.'* *(continued)*

On a missional trip to Korr-Log Logo and Marsabit, in February this year, Paul and Elizabeth saw the devastation caused by constant drought. The region had not had any rain for almost 5 years, it was extremely dry, crops had failed, and many of the animals, which are the indigenous people's only source of food and income, had died. In answer to much prayer, while Paul and Elizabeth were there, rain began to fall in most parts of the region. Unfortunately, the rain initially caused wide-spread flooding and more animals died.

In addition to their mission work, Elizabeth is writing her MA dissertation on missions/ evangelism; Paul is continuing with mandatory courses as part of his PhD course with Vrije University and Queens Foundation in Birmingham.

Please continue to pray for God's protection and guidance for Paul and Elizabeth; for the success of the outreach programmes; for completion of their studies; for better livelihoods for the indigenous people affected by drought and flooding; and for the security situation in the northern part of Kenya.

For more information, please read the Makau's latest newsletter, stored in the folder beneath the Mission Matters noticeboard. Thank you. Elizabeth

Encountering Jesus during CU Events Week

In his latest newsletter, Matthew tells us that he was very encouraged by the response to the UCCF Mission Weeks events, held on four different campuses.

The first Mission's Week was at Portsmouth University, where Matthew had been a student. Here he spoke at several different meetings. Amongst the students who attended the following encouraging encounters took place: One CU member noticed that the friend she had invited to an event was reading a copy of John's gospel under the desk, during lectures. A few weeks later, while they were discussing the questions in Uncover when the friend asked if she could go to church with the student. Another amazing response came from two Masters students from Bangladesh, together with their toddler son, who were seeking answers to some very big questions, like 'Jesus must be more than a man to do miracles, but how can he be God?'

Keele University had one of their best Mission Weeks, with nearly 300 guests attending during the week. They were helped by CU staff from Birmingham and Ireland, and a Friend's International worker. Amongst the encounters experienced by students there were three that really stood out:

Firstly, a Japanese student, who had previously attended CU's international events, said that "everyone in Japan was an atheist, including himself... but now I've heard about Jesus, I think there might be a God out there." He started reading Uncover and was eager to learn more about Jesus.

The second person, invited by CU student, considered himself agnostic. Matthew was able to share his own experience of Christianity, and 'how it's not true because it's good, but it's good because it's true'. This student has been going to CU meetings regularly ever since. The third person is an international student, who attended some events later in the week and became intrigued by the Christian faith. He has read Uncover and is also going regularly to CU meetings.

Please continue to pray for God to move in the hearts of students who have yet to come to know Christ.

Also pray for the Summer Mission Team going to Bulgaria (5th-16th July) to work with the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students movement. Matthew and Midlands-SW Staff Worker Beth will be leading the team from the Midlands.

Matthew ends his newsletter with these words from the book of Habakkuk – words of faithfulness despite hardships: *"Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Saviour."* Habakkuk 3:17-18

Elizabeth

As a keen and prolific maker of preserves, I was intrigued many years ago to hear about the World's Original Marmalade Awards, devised and organized by Jane Hassell-McCosh at Dalemain Mansion in Cumbria. This festival of homemade and artisan marmalade-making attracts entries from around the world and raises money for the hospice movement in the process. Awards are given in a number of categories, some of which are related to the product itself (for example Seville Orange Marmalade, clear or whole fruit; Dark and Chunky Marmalade; Merry Marmalade – containing alcohol) and some of which relate to the maker of the marmalade (for example Children's Marmalade, Man Made Marmalade, Gardener's Marmalade). I can't remember when I first entered a jar to see how it would fare, but certainly I have entered at least one category every year since 2010. Marks are given for: presentation, appearance and colour; texture, peel size and set; flavour, aroma and harmony, up to a maximum total of 20 points. In my experience, those points have been getting harder and harder to achieve as the years have progressed and the competition has intensified! Most years my Seville Orange Marmalade has been awarded a Silver certificate (19/20), with plenty of lovely comments from the judges – but oh! that final point has always eluded me! My peel has not been quite soft enough, or sufficiently evenly sized or distributed, or my jar has not been filled high enough, or I have caught a bubble in the shoulder, and so it has gone on.

This year I was determined to try again. I devised a new way of cutting the orange peel so that the pieces were practically all the same size; bought some jazzy new lids decorated with oranges, and matching labels, and filled my jars as high as they could go with my usual delicious recipe. But there was a snag: marmalade entered into the Clear Seville Orange category has to be made with only four ingredients – oranges, sugar, water and lemon juice. I always include the lemon peel in mine, partly because it makes more, and partly because I think it improves the flavour.

(continued)

What to do? I made a special batch or two without lemon peel for that category. But still, I thought my usual marmalade was better. Luckily for me there is a category entitled Campanologist's Marmalade, for those who, like me, ring church bells (I ring at St Michael's), and you can enter whatever recipe you like there. So I sent in my entries and waited.

What joy then, in 2023, to have been given a Gold Award for my Seville Orange Marmalade in the Campanologist's category, with a perfect score of 20/20 at last! There are a few jars left to buy at the bargain price of £2.50 (all proceeds to the Benefice Youth Fund as usual), but I suspect they won't be there for long, so please let me know soon if you want one. And the jar I entered into the Clear Seville category? It was awarded Silver again: clearly the peel does make a difference!

Sue Kingman

Our Struggling High Street

Have you noticed how a lot of our shops in the High Street have, or are now closing down?

Before Covid the building occupancy rate in the High Street was very high - not any more. Even the Charity Shops have commented that trade is slow. During the day, cafes and food shops are kind of ok. In the evening the Bars and Pubs are holding their own, but even then, it's only the weekend trade that keeps them going.

It's now the independent shops that are really struggling and sadly not sure if they'll be able to survive, or even reach the end of the year. Yes this is part of a National problem that started through Covid then the awful Ukraine war, which has left most of us going through a cost of living crisis and a lot of people with a lot less money to spend. *(continued)*

Perhaps people might like to know:

* One shop in particular found that the heating and electricity bills had gone up from £8,000 to £30,000, but they will lose less money by closing the shop down, yet still pay the rent.

* People might say the landlords need to reduce their rent. But some landlords are still having to pay their mortgage on the building.

* Lots of people from further afield would like to continue to go into Stone and the High Street, but cannot, because either they can no longer drive or their bus rota has changed.

Is there anything we can do ?

Support the activities that are taking place in Stone. The 'Stone Trader's Group' - that have liaised since 2018 with Stone Town Council and Stafford Borough Council and have produced another leaflet this year, which lists all the different activities already organised throughout the rest of the year.

Their leaflets can be found in lots of different shops with events that could appeal to the different age groups. The Puppet Festival, Stone by the Sea, the Music Festivals and a Classic Car Event to name just a few.

Everyone please also pray for all the Traders, the workers and anyone involved in the High Street in these difficult times. Give encouragement, hope for the future and creative minds to cope with each difficulty that they might have to face.

With many thanks

Anne Smith

Red Screes

We were in Ambleside for a few days. For February the weather looked good, unlike the previous February when we had torrential rain, so much that even the Windermere cruises were cancelled, and items were blown about in the streets. Day one of our short holiday we once again climbed Wansfell Pike but in much better conditions.

The next day we felt ready for a bigger challenge, Red Screes. We started our walk on the road that leads to Kirkstone pass and it is steep! "Excellent", I thought, "We get the hard bit done on the road!"

As we took a gently climbing track to High Sweden bridge, I decided it was a wonderful mountain, the sun shone, and the old pack horse bridge was a delightful spot. Next, through the gate and up to the col and the weather seemed to turn and the path got a little steeper. We donned our waterproofs and continued but soon found ourselves in thick cloud, the col was reached but the weather did not improve. The ground was rocky and slippery with damp, boggy patches if you strayed from the path. My boots began to leak, and my gloves were wet. We climbed and climbed; passers-by assured us that the summit wasn't far but soon there was snow under foot, albeit only a sprinkling and still no view, under complete cloud cover. We were thankful for cairns and a very distinctive summit and also for our, map, compass and guide book which described the terrain and pointed our path along the shoulder of the mountain. Gradually we descended out of the cloud and found our way back down the mountain. What a day we had had, an 11 mile walk and about two and a half thousand feet of climbing. How pleased we were to have completed our target.

When I thought about it afterwards, I thought about how my feelings changed during the walk, delight, struggle, misery when I was wet and cold, relief when we were out of the mist happiness to see the view stretched out below, jubilation when we saw the road home, it reminded me that the mountain didn't change it was always the same, but how I felt about it changed along the journey. *(continued)*

And so it is with faith; Jesus, just like the mountain never changes but feelings change all the time. We need to keep on going through the bad times and good because Jesus is always the same and is always there for us. He has given us a guidebook, map and compass in the Bible and fellow Christians, for our journey.

Hebrews 13 verse eight says: "*Jesus is the same yesterday and today and forever*". Let's remember that when the going gets tough.

Enid

Christ Church 90 years ago

Garden Fete 22nd June 1933

If I were to describe this event in my best journalistic style, I should say that "*a most successful Garden Party was held in the Vicarage on June 22nd, which, in spite of the thundery weather, raised an excellent total of £33 for the Organ Repair Fund.*" In the more exact—if vulgar—rendering of colloquial speech, I should say that it was literally a complete wash-out. To mention the bare fact that a thunderstorm broke over Stone about 3-15 p.m. is to give an utterly inadequate idea of what really took place. There was a deluge of rain and the "bottles of heaven" emptied themselves over us without a moment's relief for about four hours. All the preparations which had been made in the Vicarage Garden were abandoned at the last minute. The hardy adventurers who presented themselves at the gate were huddled into the house for a picnic tea in dining-room, study, kitchen and hall. The contents of the stalls were carried laboriously to the Parish Room, where an impromptu programme was provided by the Guides and Brownies and a Sale took place. It was a great disappointment that we were unable to enjoy the Maypole Dance by the Stonefield Infants as had been originally intended.

Groups and Rotas

Deanery Synod Reps	Helen Bowes, Dave Rowlands
P.C.C. Members	Pete Kelly, Estella Woodhead, Jacqueline Abrahams, Shirley Hallam, Gary Williams Marylyn Hillman, Diane Aspey, Liz Mason Phil Tunstall, Andy Stone, Shelagh Sanders Lynne Bakker-Collier
Secretary	Shelagh Sanders
Treasurer	Pete Kelly
Envelopes, Gift Aid	Steve Taylor

MEMORIAL SERVICE

22nd April Jean Marenghi Age 98 years

BAPTISM

14th May Frankie Boe Bradbury-Ray

FLOWER ROTA

4th June
 11th June Mrs S. Morray
 18th June
 25th June Mrs P. Roberts

SIDESPERSIONS

Pam Roberts
 Pete Kelly
 Marilyn Overall
 Jacqueline Abrahams

ROADS FOR PRAYER

4th June	11th June
Cross Street	Oulton Cross
Nicholls Lane	Oulton Road
Old Road	Oulton Mews
Old Road Close	Prince's Street

18th June	25th June
Queen's Square	Barnton Edge
York Street	Anderton Way/View
Navigation Loop	Bentley Close
Rangeley View	Rendel Grove

