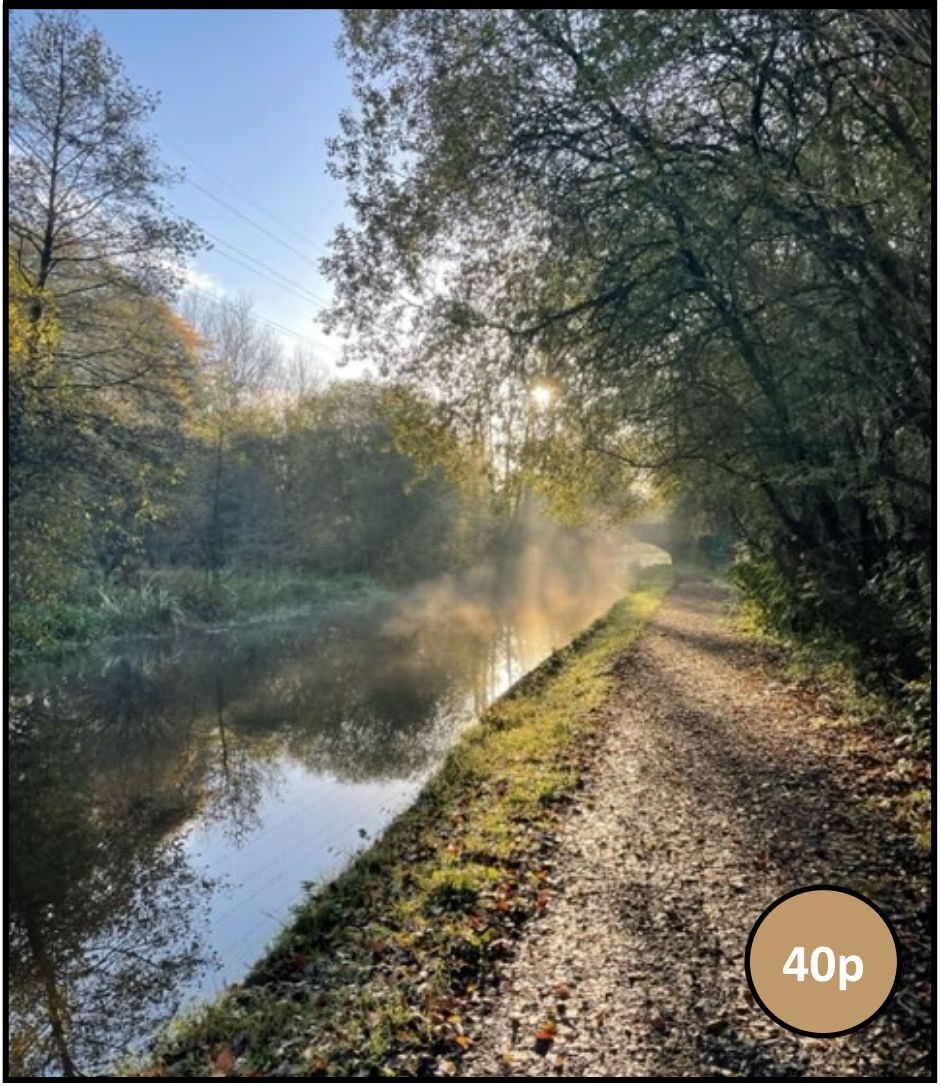
Christ Church Magazine

October 2024



PARISH DIRECTORY

SUNDAY SERVICES

Details of our services are given on page 4.

THE PARISH TEAM

Vicar Paul Kingman 812669
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Children & Families Worker Peter Cuthbert 07733 042205
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CHRIST CHURCH CENTRE

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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 Magazine

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

Cover Picture:
Early morning on the canal in Stone

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

October 2024

	Date	Time	Events (Zoom codes in weekly email)
Tue	1st	10.30 am 1.30 pm	Communion; Mark 4: 1-20 “The Sower” Christ Church First School Harvest service
Wed	2nd	9.15 am 3.30 pm	Christ Church First School assembly Trekkers
Thu	3rd	1.10 pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	4th		
Sat	5th	8.30 am	Prayer meeting followed by breakfast
Sun	6th	9.15 am 5.00 pm	Communion; John 6: 41-59 “The bread of life (2)” Christianity Explored (session 3) at the Vicarage
Mon	7th	9.30 am	Toddler group
Tue	8th	10.30 am 12.30 pm	Communion; Mark 7: 1-8 “Lip or life service?” Pursuit Club Christ Church Academy
Wed	9th	9.15 am 3.30 pm	Christ Church First School assembly Trekkers
Thu	10th	1.10 pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	11th	7.00 pm	“Window on Her Soul” ladies event in church centre
Sat	12th		
Sun	13th	9.15 am 5.00 pm	Morning Prayer; John 6: 60-70 “The bread of life (3)” Christianity Explored (session 4) at the Vicarage
Mon	14th	9.30 am	Toddler group
Tue	15th	10.30 am 12.30 pm 2.00 pm	Communion; Mark 8: 27-38 “The cost of discipleship” Pursuit Club Christ Church Academy Church at Home service at Autumn House

October 2024

	Date	Time	Events
Wed	16th	9.15 am 10.45 am 2.00 pm 3.30 pm	Christ Church First School assembly Christ Church Academy Harvest service Church at Home service at Oulton Abbey Trekkers
Thu	17th	11.00 am 1.10 pm	Church at Home service at St. Mary's Home Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	18th		
Sat	19th		
Sun	20th	9.15 am 5.00 pm	Communion; Genesis 3: 1-24 "Man's fall" Christianity Explored (session 5) at the Vicarage
Mon	21st	9.30 am	Toddler group
Tue	22nd	10.30 am 12.30 pm	Communion; Mark 9: 1-8 "The Transfiguration" Pursuit Club Christ Church Academy
Wed	23rd	9.15 am 3.30 pm	Christ Church First School assembly Trekkers
Thu	24th	1.10 pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	25th		
Sat	26th		
Sun	27th	9.15 am	All Age service; Exodus 3: 1-15 "Moses and the burning bush"
Mon	28th		
Tue	29th	10.30 am	Communion; Mark 9: 14-32 "Jesus' authority"
Wed	30th		
Thu	31st		

Clocks, time and plans

On the last Sunday of October in the UK, the clocks go back by one hour. We remember which way round it changes by the saying, "spring forward, and fall back". It may feel like a long time since the blue skies of summer (patchy though it was), but the moment when the clocks go back marks the end of British Summer Time (BST). The good news, for those who don't like an early start, is that it also means an extra hour in bed.

Various changes were made during the World Wars. In the First World War Germany put their clocks forward to increase productivity and Britain followed suit. Various other changes were experimented with, such as double summertime during WW2, but didn't provide any discernible advantage. The European Union later ruled that all member states changed their clocks on the last Sunday in March and October. Iceland as a member of the European Economic Area (no, I wasn't aware either!) was an exception due to its extreme variations in light and darkness.

I was interested to learn that the debate was started by a keen horse rider called William Willett who campaigned to make more of the summer mornings by putting the clocks forward. But he died before any changes were made (1915). His great, great, grandson Chris Martin from the band Coldplay would later write the song 'Clocks'. The song concerns the paradox facing humanity: an obsession with time and punctuality, versus the desire to savour every moment and 'seize the day'. It expresses an anxiety that many grapple with.

Wise words are found in the letter of James about our plans: *Now listen, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.' Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, 'If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that'* (James 4v13-15). This approach gives

Run the race... (cont)

comfort in the light of God's guiding hand in life (his providential care). It also encourages humility, rather than boasting, about plans. As we are aware of our limitations to accomplish things and our shortness of life, we learn to depend on God rather than live independently from Him.

"There are two great certainties about things that shall come to pass – one is that God knows, and the other is that we do not know." (Charles Haddon Spurgeon, Oct 1890).

May I invite you, the reader of this article, to come and explore with us on Sundays what it means to learn to be a person of faith, to depend humbly on the Lord God.

Paul Kingman

"Chose"

Well, what can I say…

Several weeks ago Eloho asked if anyone could help her with her new song, "Chose". So Peter, Sue, Louise, Helen, Janey and myself went to Eloho's home to practice singing the chorus backing. I don't think any of us were quite sure how it was going to work out but Eloho explained how she wanted us to sing it. A few weeks later we found ourselves in a recording studio and photographers which was all good fun.

We were a bit out of our comfort zone but all thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Then she suggested filming us all outdoors miming to the recording. Janey kindly offered their garden which was a lovely setting. We all agreed that Eloho had given us an amazing experience and the finished product was a fantastic song and a wonderful way to praise God.

Pam Roberts

'Carol Singing (mainly)'

I am delighted to be able to give you the full details of the **Carol Singing** at **Royal Stoke University Hospital.**

It is taking place on **Monday 9th December** assembling at **5.30pm** in the **Chapel** area which is on floor **LG2** in the **Main Building.**

We are arranged into groups depending on the number present from local churches and visit different areas and wards in the hospital. Since working in the cancer day ward (202) I have been asked if we might be able to go there to sing but do not yet know if this will be possible.

We find that patients, their visitors and the staff all welcome us, often request a favourite carol and are encouraged and uplifted by the change in routine. Some are keen to engage in brief conversation too! After singing we reassemble for refreshments and have the opportunity to chat about our experience.

Lifts are available so don't let travelling put you off from coming along this year if you haven't been before! **Please ask** me for anything you wish to know.

Another thing which involves going around many of the hospital wards is **'PLACE'** which stands for **P**atient **L**ed **A**ssessment of the **C**are **E**nvironment. This is an NHS England initiative aimed at improving the setting in which patients are looked after while in hospital. At a large hospital like RSUH it involves a number of days and I have been invited to assist on one of these days. Small groups comprising Patients and Trust members visit selected wards and assess many things including cleanliness and food to mention just two. The assessment results in the production of an **'action plan'** highlighting any issues which need to be addressed by the Trust. I expect to be doing this shortly.

Dave Rowlands

Take Time to Pray

1 Timothy 6 verses 6-8 But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that.

1. Feba - Life Giving Media is a Christian Mission agency focusing on the creative use of radio and other audio communications (WhatsApp and phone calls) to inspire people to follow Jesus Christ.

In India where their partners have recently rolled out a new Portable Life Charger (PLC) which focuses on reaching out to suppressed and marginalised non-Christians who generally have little or no contact with any churches or worship centres.

Please pray:

- for the continued growth in the number of hubs and that more listeners start believing in Jesus for their salvation
- for Feba's partners to experience joy during the trials they face when they broadcast and live out the gospel
- that the religious persecution by the state and communities will be stopped

Radio T in West Africa which have been broadcasting in four local languages for several years, and for the past three, to the largely unreached northern parts of the country that is unfortunately becoming more in the grip of rising anti-Christian sentiment.

Please pray :

- that God grants our partners wisdom and perseverance
- for the good news to reach many more people in this troubled region
- for people to choose Jesus instead of violence and the suppression of free will

From Russia with God's Love Over 70% of people living in Russia identify as Eastern Orthodox Christians, but current research indicates that only around 5% take their faith seriously. Feba UK has not in the past, and does not currently provide, any direct financial assistance to FEBC Russia.

We can still Pray:

- for the team's ability to bring the gospel to those suffering from the consequences of the war
- for the team to reach millions of Russian-speaking people with an introductory message about Jesus

2. The Leprosy Mission in Great Britain currently helps and serves 9 countries where people are affected by leprosy.

Please pray:

- for Guy Willcock, the Community Partnerships Manager for North Wales and the Midlands, travelling around the region visiting Churches, Community Groups and Businesses, and continuing to successfully raise further funds.
- for the dedicated nurses in India who do care and have compassion - which is not easy - because they have long hours, basic conditions and lower pay compared to government hospitals.
- for the medical staff to gain increased patience and understanding as they listen to heartbreaking stories of rejection and isolation. Hopefully the love that they show may be all that the patients need.
- where there continues to be a shortage of doctors and surgeons in Leprosy Mission hospitals, that the Lord gives them wisdom to know where to advertise for medics and to raise a new generation of people ready to help the people affected by leprosy.
- for Ethiopia's oldest and largest medical institution in the Capital of Addis Ababa. Give thanks also for the continued 2024 training in ulcer care and reconstructive surgery that's provided by the Leprosy Mission.
- for the Nilphamari Hospital in Bangladesh that provides reconstructive surgery - which restores movement, enabling those patients to gain restored mobility and complete healing - to be able to return to work.

3. African Pastors Fellowship (APF) The success of the re-launched African pastor resource hub and training library called eVitabu - is now showing that ownership of a smartphone has become an essential requirement.

Please pray:

- for APF partners in Africa to have the supplies needed, so that the community of Kibalya, can have a maternity health facility that would also be able to buy bibles for rural churches and have the resources to train pastors for ministry.
- that some of the interesting fund raising events that have been held in this country this year, will continue, so that people in the future can become more involved with raising funds - while taking part in events that really interests them :: A golf competition, a sponsored cycle ride from Nazareth (in North Wales) to Bethlehem (in south Wales), fun Quiz nights and taking no longer needed stuff to be sold at an organised car boot fair over the summer months
- for Lawson Limao, from the Word of God Ministries in Zambia. He has been training rural communities how to make better compost that's very much needed to help and improve the condition of the soil, which is called the Organic fertiliser project.

Give Thanks:

- to 10Giving, the charitable partner of online Christian bookshop 10ofThose, for contacting APF to distribute spare copies of the book 'The True King'. The book is written for children ages 3 - 7, beautifully illustrated and introduces children to the big story of the Bible - The True King who rules over his people in perfect goodness and a kingdom that will last forever.

4. Church Mission Society Have recently sent this message to us: We are trying to find peace in God's arms. We cannot give up trying to bring peace to those scarred by war. Please Christ Church Stone - we're asking your church to stand with us in prayer, to continue restoring peace where it is desperately needed.

Please Pray for:

- those people who have fled South Sudan, and ask the Lord to bring them peace to their hearts and minds. Hold them close as he continues to guide them through a journey of healing and forgiveness.
- the women and children who fled the conflicts, to find hope and healing at the trauma workshops, run by CMS's local partners in Uganda. Please give them the support and courage to initially attend these workshops.
- Sam Malish, one of CMS's local partners, who is a facilitator in the dedicated work to restore peace, one person at a time. He does this by getting people to write down things that have caused them pain on pieces of paper, then burn them, to show that it's over. 'It IS over' - which is proving to be a powerful tool to finding healing.
- Sam's continuing success with other healing activities which will hopefully restore people's forgiveness, true healing and repentance.

Blessings—Anne

Service for the Bereaved

Sunday 10th November at 3pm in Christ Church, Stone.

We hold an annual service for the bereaved on the afternoon of Remembrance Sunday. Although we specifically write to those we have held funerals and memorials for their loved ones, it is a service intended to be for any who wish to attend. For those attending we will remember your loved ones in a roll call of names, and ask that you provide their details by the week before. Many find this service helpful in their grieving.

Rev Paul Kingman.

Tales from the towpath.(13)

August 2024

Hi There,

It is always good to be asked. When someone is able to phone you up and ask you specifically it demonstrates that a good relationship has been built and that one is being trusted! So I am so pleased that I can top and tail the month of August, one liveaboard local boater on the 1st and another on the 31st contacted me to do various tasks when they needed help. It is always a great blessing to be able to help in a practical way and provides opportunities for more conversations. In our faith journeys it is all about building relationships; with Jesus, with each other and through the power of the Holy Spirit, enabling love to grow and God's kingdom to shine through.

I had a trip over to Fradley Junction to meet with one of the other probationary chaplains and joined three others to do a Prayer Walk along the Trent & Mersey at Shobnall where the local chaplains had felt there was a real need for that. Of course, prayer is an essential part of **every** towpath walk – praying for the boaters and all the towpath users.

I caught up and enjoyed a coffee with a boater I have helped a few times and it is good to see this boater moving on positively with their lives. John and I went down to the Canal Festival at Brownhills (on the Wyrley & Essington Canal) – fortunately not too affected by the unfortunate industrial spillage of toxic cyanide in Walsall – a terrible situation for wildlife and those living on or near the canal network. Always sad when God's amazing creation is spoiled.

I also collected a box of 100 New Testaments (plus Psalms and Proverbs), which we have been given free and badged with Waterways Chaplaincy, that the Staffordshire WW Chaplains can give out, as appropriate, to help those asking questions and seeking God. Very helpful to spread the good news indeed.

Tales from the Towpath... (cont)

I have enjoyed some excellent towpath walks and lock-keeping this month – yesterday I was giving Diane a lesson in operating locks which she found fun too! Diane is also loving her towpath walks and, Praise the Lord, having many meaningful conversations.

Please continue to pray for all those on the waterways – especially all those visiting our wonderful town of Stone.

God bless, Helen

Sunday School Returns!

We are back and this term we are looking at the adventures of Joshua! By the time this airs we will have already covered Joshua being chosen as leader, Rahab hiding the spies, and more!

Below is a craft for Rahab hiding the spies from their enemies for you to see what we do! The Sunday School continues well, with some great input from precocious children. Each week we play games, read the bible and do crafts. And you can tell some of the children are really on the ball - if only the rest of the children in the schools were as knowledgeable of the Bible! But that we see them learning each week proves that our mission is worth continuing.

As God told Joshua: be strong and courageous! If the children in Sunday School can talk about overcoming their fear of sharks by trusting in God, then we too can be a bold and brave people unafraid of sharing the good news with those around us.

New Area Bishop of Wolverhampton

10 Downing Street on 27th August announced the name of the fifth Bishop of Wolverhampton:

"The King has approved the nomination of The Right Reverend Dr Timothy Wambunya, Vicar of St Paul's, Slough, in the Diocese of Oxford, for nomination to the Suffragan See of Wolverhampton in the Diocese of Lichfield, in succession to Bishop Clive Gregory, following his retirement.

Tim's initial career was in Marine Engineering. He trained for ministry at Oakhill Theological College, London. He served his title at St John, Southhall Green, in the Diocese of London and was ordained Priest in 1998. Timothy was appointed Vicar at Emmanuel Holloway Church, Stepney, in 2000 and, in 2007, was appointed Principal at Carlile College (*The Church Army Africa College*) in Nairobi, Kenya. During these two roles, he studied for a PhD in Paremiology (Proverbs) at the Oxford Centre for Mission Studies (University of Wales). In 2013, he was consecrated and became Bishop of the Diocese of Butere, Anglican Church of Kenya, before taking up his current role in 2020 as Vicar at St Pauls, Slough, in the Diocese of Oxford. He has additionally served as an Honorary Assistant Bishop in the Diocese of Oxford.

Responding to his appointment, Bishop Tim said: "I am thankful for the trust placed in me to serve this vibrant and diverse community. I look forward to working closely with my colleague bishops, the clergy, lay leaders, and parishioners to advance our intercultural mission of faith, hope, and love".

Bishop Tim will be moving with his wife, Gertrude, and the youngest of their three sons, to Wolverhampton at the start of October. He is expected to be welcomed to the diocese and episcopal area with a service at St Matthew's, Walsall on 15 October 2024 at 1900. As he has already been consecrated as a bishop in Kenya, this service will also mark the inauguration of his episcopal ministry here. High among his early priorities will getting to know the clergy of the area and sharing with Bishop Michael and Bishop Sarah in the appointments of new Archdeacons of Walsall and of Salop.

Black History Month

One of the most frequent questions I am asked is why we need a Black History Month, what does it mean for the church and our lives today.

I think it is easier to answer that question this year more than any as we have all seen the violence, intimidation, rioting and division that took place across our country a couple of months ago. We as a Church can become complacent in our thinking that race doesn't matter, and we are all the same in God's eyes so why the special treatment. We can within our church bubbles think of ourselves as caring, responsible; places of peace and flourishing for all. The events of the last months showed us how slender that thread of respectful relationships can be. We need to be aware of the narrative from media and social media which paints a picture of division and hate, and Christians are not immune to that negativity and hate.

I believe that Black History Month gives us all time to reflect on differences within our space and to celebrate that difference. Intercultural mission involves reaching out to all nations and integrating into one worshipping community as they love and serve Jesus and each other. Black History month encourages people to learn more about Britain's colonial history, which is often not taught in school. It gives us space to understand ourselves and our own biases. Knowledge is power in terms of the church and enables us to be better stewards of the privilege and blessings that are enjoyed by a proportion of the church.

So, what can I do in my parish in leafy Shropshire, or urban Wolverhampton? You can invest your time to understand the experience of black Christians in the Church of England, you can become part of an ever-growing solution building on knowledge and understanding, you can advocate for racial justice and become a champion. God's great commission to all nations requires us to truly know or neighbour as ourselves.

I would recommend the following activities: -

Foundations of Faith...(cont)

- Join the Anglican Network for Intercultural churches which exists to enhance understanding of effecting intercultural mission. https://anic.org.uk/
- Attend 'Unconscious bias' training on 20 November 2024 at St John's Essington, 27 March 2025 at Doxey, Stafford or 5 June 2025 at Reeves Room, Lichfield – do book on via www.lichfield.anglican.org/calendar/
- Attending the Selwyn Lecture, in Lichfield Cathedral on 28 November 2024 at 9.30am, there will be a booking facility on the diocesan website closer to the date.

Canon Debbie Parkes
is co-convenor of Lichfield Diocese's
Racial Justice and Inclusion Task Group,
and a lay canon of Lichfield Cathedral.

www.lichfield.anglican.org/racial-justice/

DIOCESE OF LICHFIELD

Coming soon... Advent Windows 2024

Work has been taking place throughout the summer on the Advent Windows project for this year. The plan is in place. We have 24 windows to be dressed and there are 24 willing groups designing and planning their window displays. There are nurseries and schools plus a variety of community groups.

Window number 1 is being produced by St. John's church, Oulton and will be opened after the Sunday service at Christ Church

More information will be published in the November magazine.

Ring Out the Good News!
Stone Advent Window Trail 2024

Wonderful Waxcaps

By October, the areas of long, meadow grass within a churchyard or cemetery will have been mown short and raked, making it is easy to wander around and look for colourful fungi. Old grasslands, like those found in burial grounds, have a fabulously complex web of life beneath the sward, of which fungi are a key part. These grassland fungi, which are different species from those found growing on trees or on deadwood on the ground, are 'indicator species' showing an observer that this grassland is precious, has not been ploughed, fertilised or treated with chemicals for a long time (if ever).

The **mycelium** of the fungi is the part below ground, this consists of thread -like '**hyphae**' which may be connected to a range of grasses, mosses, trees and flowering plants. After rain, and often in the autumn, the mycelium pushes up the fungal equivalent of a fruit above the ground where we can see it. Fungi are largely made of water and so can appear quickly, pumped up by hydrostatic power. The purpose of this is to spread the species far and wide, with a single mushroom able to contain vast numbers of microscopic spores. In the grassland the fungi you find might be waxcaps and pinkgills both of which are shaped like a small mushroom, or spindles and earth tongues, both of which are long and thin. Many fungi are long-lived and may not fruit every year, some only fruiting once in a decade so are rarely seen. They continue to grow and spread beneath the ground however.

Grassland fungi have long captured our imaginations as their names indicate. Look for scarlet, parrot, snowy, butter and ballerina waxcaps. How about skinny club, crested coral, golden spindles or hairy earthtongue.

Although shiny and brightly coloured, these grassland fungi can be difficult to identify as they can change colour with time. Some of the colours are water soluble so fade or change quickly, particularly if it rains.

Wonderful Waxcaps… (cont)

They are however delightful to look at, and even if you don't know which waxcap or spindle you are looking at, the presence of these grassland fungi is relevant and worth recording. If you take a photo of the top, side and ideally the underside showing the gills where the spores are found, it may be possible for someone to identify it, particularly if you use the iNaturalist app on a smartphone or tablet.

Grassland fungi need our help so please look after them. Always rake off the cuttings after mowing, strimming or scything grassland, whether it is long or short grass. This helps to keep the soil fertility low which the fungi need, as do the wildflowers. Avoid any chemicals and keep grasslands managed with regular cutting so that they don't turn become coarse and rough. You may be rewarded with a scattering of colourful fungi looking like jewels across the sward. As well as looking pretty and adding to the richness of biodiversity they, and the other plants, lichens, invertebrates and microbes are all storing carbon in our soils, one of the many natural solutions to climate change.

Harriet Carty

Diocesan Churchyard Environmental Advisor, harriet@cfga.org.uk,

www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk - individuals and groups in the diocese receive 20% members discount on all CfGA materials. Use the discount code **diomem22**

Crimson waxcap in a churchyard

Smokey Spindles in a churchyard

Groups and Rotas

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

REGISTERS

BAPTISM

WEDDINGS

FUNERALS

FLOWER ROTA

6th October:	
13th October:	
20th October:	Shirley Hallam
27th October:	

SIDESPERSONS

Marilyn Overall
Pam Roberts
Diane Aspey
Mandy Dudd

ROADS FOR PRAYER

6th October	**13th October**
Arthur Street	Brindley Close
Barnton Edge	Bromfield Court
Bentley Close	Caldon Way
Berkeley Street	Cameron Wharf

20th October	**27th October**
Candler Drive	Cressy Close
Cauldon Way	Cross Street
Chandler's Way	Darwin Close
Chestnut Grove	Dixon Close