Christ Church Magazine

November 2024

40p

PARISH DIRECTORY

SUNDAY SERVICES

Details of our services are given on page 4.

THE PARISH TEAM

Vicar Paul Kingman 812669
The Vicarage, Bromfield Court

Children & Families Worker Peter Cuthbert 07733 042205
peter.j.cuthbert@btinternet.com

Electoral Roll Officer Parish Office 811990

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

CHRIST CHURCH CENTRE

Booking Secretary Parish Office 811990

CHURCH SCHOOLS

Christ Church C.E.(Controlled) First School, Northesk Street.
Headteacher Mrs A. Graham BA(Hons) NPQH 01785 336545

Christ Church Academy, Old Road
Principal: Mr C. Wright MAEd 01785 334900

In This Issue

November Calendar	4, 5
Wars and rumours of wars	6, 7
Service for the Bereaved	7
Hospital Notes (54)	8
Take Time to Pray	9-12
Bring a Friend Opportunities	12,
Tales from the Towpath (14)	13, 14
The Harvest Quiz	14
Midland Women's Convention	15, 16
What on earth is an ADDO???	16, 17
Food.gives collection for Harvest, Ageing	18
Advent Windows	19
Rotas, Roads for Prayer	20

Christ Church Magazine

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

Cover Picture:
Memorial at junction of Northesk St. and Station Rd.

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

November 2024

	Date	Time	Events (Zoom codes in weekly email)
Fri	1st		
Sat	2nd	8.30 am	Prayer meeting followed by breakfast
Sun	3rd	9.15 am	Morning Prayer; 1 Samuel 2v1-11 "There is no one like the LORD "
Mon	4th	9.30 am	Toddler group
Tue	5th	10.30 am 12.30 pm 6.00 pm	Communion; Mark 10v17-31: "The rich young man " Pursuit Club Christ Church Academy Bring and Share meal with Stephen and Tabita Bell
Wed	6th	9.15 am 3.30 pm 7.30 pm	Christ Church First School assembly Trekkers Standing Committee meeting in church centre
Thu	7th	1.10 pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	8th		
Sat	9th	9.30 am	Lichfield Diocese training day
Sun	10th	9.15 am 3.00 pm	Communion; Psalm 96 "King of the world " Service for the Bereaved Christianity Explored (session 6) at the Vicarage
Mon	11th	9.30 am	Toddler group
Tue	12th	10.30 am 12.30 pm 2.00 pm	Communion; Mark 10v32-45: "The ransom for many " Pursuit Club Christ Church Academy Church at Home service at Autumn House
Wed	13th	9.15 am 2.00 pm 3.30 pm	Christ Church First School assembly Church at Home service at Oulton Abbey Trekkers
Thu	14th	11.00 am 1.10 pm	Church at Home service at St. Mary's home Christ Church Academy assembly

November 2024

	Date	Time	Events
Fri	15th		
Sat	16th	2.00 pm	Jam and Chutney Sale in the church centre
Sun	17th	9.15 am 5.00 pm	Communion; Isaiah 6v1-13 "The unclean made clean " Christianity Explored (session 7) at the Vicarage
Mon	18th	9.30 am	Toddler group
Tue	19th	10.30 am 12.30 pm	Communion; Mark 11v12-19 "Fruitless religion " Pursuit Club Christ Church Academy
Wed	20th	9.15 am 3.30 pm 7.30 pm	Christ Church First School assembly Trekkers P.C.C. Meeting in church centre
Thu	21st	1.10 pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	22nd		
Sat	23rd		
Sun	24th	9.15 am	All Age service; John 15v1-8 "The vine and the branches "
Mon	25th	9.30 am	Toddler group
Tue	26th	10.30 am 12.30 pm	Communion; Jeremiah 23v5-8 "The righteous branch " Pursuit Club Christ Church Academy
Wed	27th	9.15 am 3.30 pm	Christ Church First School assembly Trekkers
Thu	28th	1.10 pm	Christ Church Academy assembly
Fri	29th		
Sat	30th		

Wars and rumours of wars but the end is still to come!

Just when did the war start? It is hard to even think about the miserable situation in countries currently at war.

When I checked for the date of the start of the war between Russia and Ukraine the answer was that it began in February 2014. It was following Ukraine's Revolution of Dignity, that Russia occupied and annexed Crimea from Ukraine and supported pro-Russian separatists fighting the Ukrainian military in the Donbas War. In February 2022 Russia invaded Ukraine which was a major escalation. The war has resulted in thousands of military casualties and tens of thousands of civilian casualties.

Then there is the Arab Israeli war. If ever there was a tinder-box situation that could catch fire easily then this surely is the place. The first war in 1948 began when Israel declared itself to be an independent state following the United Nation's partition of Palestine and five Arab countries. Things have rumbled on and the latest conflict has resulted in the levelling of communities and humanitarian crises.

It may seem to us that The End is very near! What hope is there for the world that so easily maims and destroys?

Jesus spoke about how world turmoil is to be expected before the end: *"You will hear of wars and rumours of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth-pains*" (Matthew 24v6-8). The fallen world in which we live involves struggle, conflicts and wars. But these are a prelude, the build-up, to the final day when Jesus will return as Judge of all and give eternal peace to those who belong to him.

Wars and rumours of wars... (cont)

This knowledge of Jesus' return is a wake-up call. It should result in getting ourselves ready. We're called to live a life of faith in the Lord Jesus, to produce the fruit of repentance which is a life that is holy (dedicated to God), righteous (as he is in character and conduct), and truth (God being the source of all truth and so entirely trustworthy).

While the world pressurises us to abandon the Holy Bible's teaching, those who follow Jesus must remember that it is the precious word of God. We're not to add to it since it is sufficient to make us wise for salvation and enable us to lead a godly life. We're not to deviate from it. We're not to take away from it. We are to hold on to it faithfully. For what God has promised will be fulfilled. God's plans will take place. Are you ready?

Journey with us this Advent as we reflect on God's character and how to be like Him.

Paul Kingman

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

"POSITIVES"

A few weeks ago I met a lady completely outside the hospital context and during our conversation she asked me...

"Are you a hospital Chaplain?"

When I confirmed that I was she continued...

"I thought so; I met you in 2018 when you visited my mother in The West Building at Royal Stoke shortly before she died. She was asleep but you were kind enough to pray with me"

How rewarding it was to realise that a short encounter can leave a lasting impression that is still remembered 6 years later. Little do we know the impact of conversations that we have and it makes us realise to be mindful in what we say and how we speak with others!

I have taken part in the **P**atient **L**ed **A**ssessment of the **C**are **E**nvironment (PLACE) and it was most worthwhile. The group consisted of 5 of us including 2 senior Hospital Trust employees. We selected 1 outpatient clinic and 3 wards to visit sampling the food in one of them. In general we found the environment and cleanliness to be brilliant but were able to pinpoint some relatively minor issues of various sorts which need attention. Using detailed feedback sheets all our observations were recorded and, we were assured, would be acted upon where necessary before the next **'PLACE'** occurs.

I have now received the information about Carol Singing at County Hospital, Stafford. It is to take place on Thursday 19th December, assembling in the Pilgrim Chapel on the first floor at 5.30pm after which we will go round the wards from around 6pm until 7pm or so. Please come and join in if you can!

Dave Rowlands

Take Time to Pray

Philippians 1 verse 4-6 In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus .

1. MAF - Mission Aviation Fellowship, which is the world's largest humanitarian air operator, serving isolated people in 24 countries

Please pray for:

- The Democratic Republic of Congo for the safety of a new aircraft that was welcomed earlier this year into its fleet. Pray also for lots of teenage girls who no longer attend school because of poverty or pressure from society, and praise the various organisations seeking to help them.
- Tanzania, where earlier this year their internet connection was being restored, hopefully now it will continue to ensure that good internet connections will continue. Pray also for the villagers struggling to keep the grass airstrips cut to a safe level for planes to land.
  While the abundant rain was good for the crops earlier this year, the poor condition of some of the runways, resulted in a least one medical clinic having to be cancelled.
- Kenya, where this year there has been extensive flooding, which has displaced over 200.000 people. Pray for everyone trying to recover from the devastation and give thanks to the Disaster Response team able to deliver vital supplies - blankets, food supplements, mosquito nets and malaria and cholera test kits.
- Madagascar where their new hangar is operational and that their Cessna 182 aircraft can now be safely kept inside and protected from the elements. Please give thanks that MAF Madagascar has been delivering polio vaccine for UNICEF, which will protect the recipients and prevent them from paralysis and other debilitating complications of polio.

- Pilot Ryan Unger, who made the first landing at a newly built airstrip in south-western Madagascar and pray that the new runway will bring positive change for the community and, those living there, will now be connected to the rest of the country.
- South Sudan, partnering with the Usratuna Centre, MAF now regularly flies babies - accompanied by their mothers - for surgery at CURE Children's Hospital in Uganda. With conditions such as hydrocephalus and spina bifida, children receive treatment that isn't available in South Sudan.

2. The Christian Unions and mission teams operate at the heart of university and college campuses, and they have the support of **UCCF (Universities and Colleges Christian Fellowship** group**)**

Please pray for:

- Matt Lillicrap, who is the new CEO of UCCF, who has just started this important role. He has been in church ministry in Cambridge for several years so will be bringing a great deal of knowledge and experience.
- Matt's prayers - ' As I begin this role, please pray I do the 'basics' well. As we are seeing a nationwide decline in young people going into ministry, pray that the Lord will be working in the hearts of the next generation of Christian leaders. Your support and prayers are vital to our mission and we are deeply thankful for your ongoing generosity.'
- the new students to settle in and - to those who know Jesus - help them to find a suitable church locally and also encourage everyone to have good relationships with the other students .

3. Matthew Leung our Mission Partner who is based at Keele University and Staffordshire, who now has a new role as a Staff Worker

Please pray for :

- For Matthew's responsibilities -

- Supporting CU's to be mission teams by motivating, enabling and training them.
- Acting as a catalyst for evangelism and Christian growth.
- Working with key students to encourage and develop them as disciples of Christ.
- Helping CUs feel part of the wider UCCF family.
- Developing relationships with local Christians.

4. Tear Fund Works with many poor communities across the world, and gives relief to disaster areas by working through local churches and agencies.

Please pray for :

- the families and friends of Joans and John, the Two Tear Fund Aid workers who were killed in an attack in The Democratic Republic of the Congo. Please pray for all the help and assistance needed in this time of great sadness and crisis.
- the remaining 12 people, who were caught up in the attack, who thankfully did survive. Pray for their continued recovery since returning back home.
- the people in Ukraine who were left homeless and traumatised. Tear Fund has supported the local church partners in Ukraine and Moldova and continues to request more prayers to help people who are still struggling physically and emotionally.
- For the ongoing conflict in Gaza and Israel, which has brought immense suffering and desperate needs for humanitarian aid.
- For the two billion people worldwide who do not have access to safe waste collection and disposal. Pray for the plastics treaty session (INC-5) running in Busan, South Korea to hopefully get more positive changes with the plastics crisis.

Please pray for...

- Nepal, which remains the least developed and one of the poorest countries in Asia. Tear Fund has been working there since the 1970's. Pray for the people in Nepal and families, whose homes were destroyed by an earthquake nearly 9 years ago, and the situation in certain areas still needs resolving.

The information provided and points for prayer are intended for use week by week during the month. These can be used by an individual, or a group of people meeting for prayer and fellowship. Blessings—Anne

Bring a Friend Opportunities

How fortunate we are as a church to have people who undertake a variety of ways in which we can gently introduce our friends and family to our church family. There were three of these opportunities during last month. All with a surfeit of cake!

We supported MacMillan coffee morning on Friday 27 September; closely followed that same evening by the Harvest Quiz which was thoroughly enjoyed by all - despite John's bonus round!

Everyone who attended the "Window on her Soul" ladies' evening on 11 October agreed that it was a thoroughly excellent evening with the climax being the talk by Sue Kingman about her life which mostly these days is centred around growing fruit and vegetables in her garden and turning them into jams and chutneys: but she still finds time to be a big part of the music team, to welcome a Housegroup at the Vicarage: to produce refreshments for the weekly Tuesday Holy Communion congregation and last, but by no means least, to support our Vicar as he carries out his numerous tasks both here in Stone and in the wider church.

My neighbour who came with me to all these events really enjoyed them and the welcome that she received from people in the church, and I know will come to other events in the future.

Shirley Hallam

Tales from the towpath (14)

September 2024

Hi There,

With August over and the new school term starting in September I guess we have entered into the next season on the waterways. Canal Cruising Company told me that August was a very quiet time for boat hire but fortunately September was much better – I assume that many boaters come in the retired couples bracket than those with young families! The weather is certainly rather mixed and probably now the traffic passing through Stone will quieten off as Winter comes and boaters will have to deal with stoppages and weather!

There were still boat festivals to go to in September, however, and John and I went off to the Shardlow Inland Port Festival and the Black Country Boat Festival, both of which were very interesting and well attended. Shardlow is a fascinating place as an Inland Port where the Trent and Mersey Canal meets the River network of the Trent and Derwent. Goods were transferred from wide river boats to narrow canal boats. The Village has an interesting history with many historic buildings – well worth a visit. Unfortunately, it was a very wet day, but I met up with various boaters who I had met in Stone previously, such as the Crepe Boat and the Jam Butty Boat as well as many others.

Also it was great at the Black Country Boat Festival at Bumble Holes Nature reserve near Dudley. This time the weather was beautiful, lots of music and food with thousands attending and a chance to catch up with some other boat traders whom I had met before. Had a lovely conversation with 'CraftyBird', who is very supportive of the Chaplaincy work – they will be featuring in the next series of 'Narrow Escapes', so look out for them.

Listening to those with problems, passing the time of day, sharing good and not so good news – one never knows quite what any day has in store. I went to Sheffield last week, where the headquarters of Church Army are based, who oversee and support the WWC work. It was good to meet up

with the other Senior Chaplains from all around the country - many of whom have much more experience than I do, so very useful to know! We talked a lot about being 'Pastorally Proactive and Spiritually Reactive' and how important prayer is in our work as chaplains.

Thank you for your prayers - please continue to pray for all those on the waterways – especially all those visiting our wonderful town of Stone.

God bless, Helen

The Harvest Quiz

Wow – what a night. So many people came to the Harvest Quiz that we started to run out of chairs. Once we were all settled our glamorous host Helen started to lead us through the questions assisted by her husband John (who can normally be seen playing the guitar in our worship band).

The questions had been provided by Tear Fund and some of them were very, very hard indeed!!! Even the magnificent brains in our team couldn't answer them but there were enough that we knew and we cherished the hope that we might win the prize. Our hopes were dashed as 'The No Hopers' triumphed with their superior knowledge and amazing intellect.

Those of us who didn't share their glory consoled ourselves with an array of splendid puddings and gobbled up several thousand calories which made us feel better.

It was a great night and people from all three of our benefice congregations took part. Fun and Fellowship are 2 of the key ingredients to grow a church. Hope we do it again soon!

Christine Pentland

Midland Women's Convention

On Saturday 5th October six of us set off for Nottingham to the annual Midlands Women's Convention. Several of us had been before so we had an idea of what to expect. We also knew the main talks were on the book of Job which might have felt a little daunting to some.

On arrival there was tea and coffee as we wrote our name badges, received our programmes and found seats. There is a nursing mothers room for babies who need feeding, toddlers who are restless and others who needed to get up and move. The talks could be heard in there so no one missed out.

The event began with an introduction and we were told it was a complete sell out, every seat filled. We sang songs both well known and new, had prayers and the Bible reading.

The talks on Job were divided into three parts of about 45 minutes each, two in the morning and one in the afternoon. It wasn't at all heavy going, instead it was easy and interesting to listen to with many comparisons to our lives today.

At morning break time there were donuts and tea or coffee.

Before lunch there was a testimony about a life being affected by tragedy and how God helped them through it all, which was very moving and also inspiring.

Lunch is not provided, we are asked to bring our own but there is plenty of tea and coffee and supermarkets close by to buy food. Lunchtime is also a great time to peruse the 10 of Those bookstall who have a great selection and often have some good deals.

After lunch there was more singing, more on Job and again more singing before we left for home.

We all left feeling upbeat and inspired by all we heard and the sight of so many Christian women of all ages worshipping together.

Midland Women's Convention... (cont)

Some of the lessons we learnt from the days talks were,

- No matter what happens God is in charge.
- Suffering will not go on forever.
- Jesus has won the battle against Satan.
- New creation awaits.

The event was repeated on Saturday 19th October in Solihull and a second group from Christ Church went.

The events are well worth attending and if you feel encouraged to attend next year the dates for your calendar are Saturday 4th October 2025 in Nottingham and Saturday 18th October in Solihull. The talks will be on Gideon.

Estella Woodhead

What on earth is an ADDO???

Some of you may have seen in the notice sheet that I have been appointed as an **ADDO for the Diocese of Lichfield** and I imagine you thought – what is that?? So thought I would let you know.

ADDO – stands for **Assistant Diocesan Director of Ordinands** – sounds much more grand than it is, but nevertheless it is a great privilege and honour to be asked to be part of what they call the **'shared discernment process'.** This is the process which people go through on their vocational journey to seek out what God is calling them to be and to do and one such journey may be a call to ordination. All the clergy in the Church of England will have gone through this process, which can take months or even years, before they will start training to become a Priest or Deacon. Also Lay Readers, Chaplains, Pioneer Ministers and Church Army Evangelists all will go through a similar journey to seek out the ministry to which God is calling them.

What on earth is an ADDO… (cont)

Many people will be aware that God is calling them to something, to a ministry of some sort. Usually they will go on a Vocations Day or perhaps a training course called 'Pathways', run by the Diocese, to help them think about what their ministry may look like. They may work with a **Vocational Advisor** (I am also one of that team) to talk about their life, their skills, their calling and how God may use them.

If ordination seems to be the way forward for them they are then passed onto a DDO /ADDO (I will be doing this part now) to do the deep work needed to get them ready for the next stage in their journey. This will involve a number of deep discussions around six areas - Love for God, Love for People, Call to Ministry, Wisdom, Potential and Fruitfulness. A call to ordination is a very serious one and it is much better to do lots of formational work at this stage to get them ready for the challenges ahead. This all takes place in the Diocese.

When the 'candidate' and the DDO/ADDO, in agreement with the Bishop, thinks they are ready they go forward into the National Process which comprises conversations and interviews at two stages to check out if the candidate is ready and that they inhabit the appropriate qualities to go into training for the diaconate/priesthood. I have been one of the team of **National Bishop's Advisors** for the last 5 years, which is really interesting and amazing to do the interviewing and get to talk to people who have inspiring stories to tell. (The Bishops Advisors do not interview people from their own Diocese to ensure impartiality.) The Advisors make recommendations to the Candidate's Bishop who decides whether they enter into training.

It truly is a **Shared Discernment Process** to ensure accountability, impartiality and support throughout this important journey of vocation and formation in would-be priests and deacons. I am privileged to be part of it.

Helen Bowes

Food.gives collection for Harvest

Thank you for giving generously to fill more boxes this year. We have sent 14 boxes (9 boxes in 2023). Thanks especially to Phil who kept the table tidy, filled the boxes and took them to the local centre in Burslem, to be taken by carrier to the UK depot in Swindon. From there they were distributed by Barnabas Aid's church partners to poor and hungry Christians in The Middle East and Africa The food crisis is more severe this year due to weather extremes, inflation and armed conflict. Countries which have received aid in 2024 include Afghanistan, Gaza, Lebanon & South Sudan

Sheila Hawley

Ageing

Are you frustrated about getting older? Here is God's view

Most seniors never get enough exercise. In His wisdom God decreed that seniors become forgetful so they would have to search for their glasses, keys and other things, thus doing more walking.

And God looked down and saw it was good.

Then God saw there was another need. In His wisdom He made seniors lose co-ordination so they would drop things, requiring them to bend, reach, and stretch.

And God looked down and saw it was good.

Then God considered the function of bladders and decided seniors would have additional calls of nature, requiring more trips to the bathroom, thus providing more exercise, even during the night when they tend to get too stiff lying in one position all night.

And God looked down and saw it was good.

So, if you find as you age, you are getting up and down more, remember it is God's will. It is all in your best interest even though you mutter about it under your breath!

Advent Windows

Please come along at 11.00 a.m. every day throughout December and support our local community with their preparations for Christmas. This year's theme is "Ring Out The Good News", so look out for the bells!

This is the list of windows creators:

Sun 1st	Oulton Church	Fri 13th	Manor Hill Nursery
Mon 2nd	St. Dominic's Priory	Sat 14th	Bell Ringers
Tue 3rd	Oaktree Farm Rural project	Sun 15th	Meaford Day Nursery
Wed 4th	Meaford Fields Day Nursery	Mon 16th	Oulton First School
Thu 5th	St. Michael's First School	Tue 17th	Waterways Chaplaincy
Fri 6th	Christ Church First School	Wed 18th	Christ Church Academy
Sat 7th	Hub Craft Group	Thu 19th	Smarty's Day Nursery
Sun 8th	Springfield OSC	Fri 20th	Mumbles Day Nursery
Mon 9th	Elmhurst Day Nursery	Sat 21st	The Crossing Community Ctr
Tue 10th	Pirehill First School	Sun 22nd	Ebenezer/Sunday School
Wed 11th	St. Dominic's Primary	Mon 23rd	Kids Planet Day Nursery
Thu 12th	Walton Priory	Tue 24th	Christ Church

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

3rd November:	Val Ledward
10th November:	Remembrance
17th November:	
24th November:	Doris Pickles

SIDESPERSONS

Jacqueline Abrahams
Dave Rowlands
Pete Kelly
Jeanette Rowlands

ROADS FOR PRAYER

3rd November	**10th November**
Stonefield Court	Trent Court
Stonefield Square	Trent Road
The Avenue	Trinity Drive
The Crescent	Tunley Street

17th November	**24th November**
Airdale Grove	Alexandra Street
Airdale Road	Alma Street
Airdale Spinney	Ancestry Close
Albert Street	Anderton View