

This Week Sunday 11th February		
9.00am	Holy Communion 1 Corinthians 4:1-21	Team B
9.45am	Holy Communion at Highfields 1 Corinthians 4:1-21	
10.30am	Family Worship 1 Corinthians 4:1-21	
6.00pm	Evening Worship Judges 5	Team I
Wednesday Ash Wednesday Communion Wednesday Explorers Kids Group Friday Parents & Toddlers Friday Fuse Youth Group		
Next Week Sunday 18th February		
9.00am	Morning Prayer 1 Corinthians 5:1-13	Team C
9.45am	Morning Worship at Highfields 1 Corinthians 5:1-13	
10.30am	Family Communion 1 Corinthians 5:1-13	
6.00pm	Evening Worship Judges 6	Team F 3@6
Feb 21	Lent Course Begins	
Mar 3	Women's World Day of Prayer	
Mar 27	OMF Prayer Meeting	

#### LAST BUT NOT LEAST . . .

#### . . . JUST REPORTING THE NEWS

Bermuda's governor has approved a bill reversing the right of gay couples to marry, less than a year after same-sex marriages were legalised in the British overseas territory.

The decision by Governor John Rankin in the wealthy Atlantic island of 60,000 people represents the first reversal of a trend among Western countries of legalising same-sex marriage.

Under the Domestic Partnership Act 2017, already passed by Bermuda's House of Assembly and Senate, any Bermudian will be allowed to form domestic partnerships which the government says will offer equal rights. It follows a referendum in which a majority of voters opposed same-sex marriage.

The office in the Church Hall is used for administering the business and clerical materials for the services. Dalena is usually there on Tuesday and Friday between 2 and 5pm.  
Telephone 01785 241894

The photo-copier in the office is available for hire from 5p per copy. If you have any personal copying requirements or need any commercial printing, please get in touch.

Castle Church Growth Trust Charity Ref No: 1126686

For contact details, please visit

**Castle Church's Website**

**WWW.CASTLECHURCH.ORG.UK**

Cross Words is compiled & edited by Les Deall



Follow us on Twitter: @Castle\_Church



Vicar: Rev Philip Sowerbutts  
Associate Minister: Rev Christine Sykes

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Jesus took the Twelve aside and told them, "Everything that is written by the prophets about the Son of Man will be fulfilled."

*Luke 18:31*

### 11th February 2018 Quinquagesima Sunday next before Lent

#### WELCOME TO CASTLE CHURCH

We meet to engage with God - to hear him speak through his Word - to thank him for his goodness to us - to bring our needs before Him - and to pray for his world and to encourage each other.

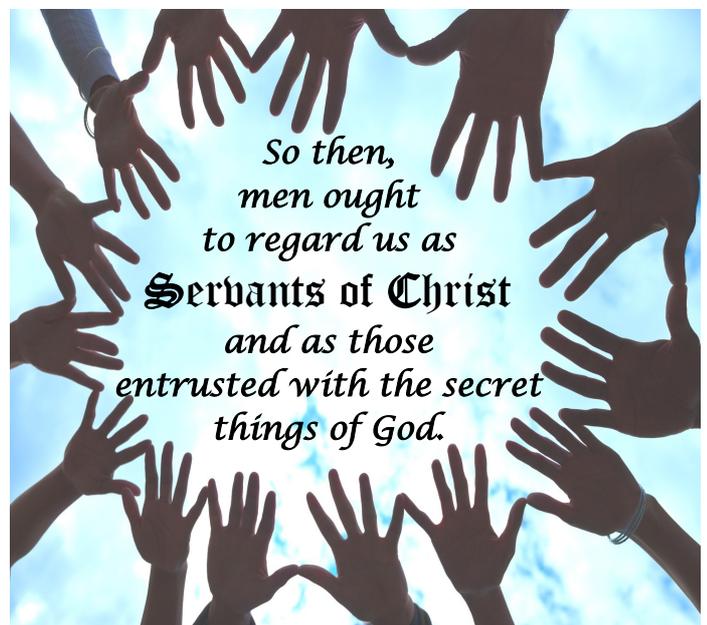
Our aim is to encounter the living God together, through his Son Jesus Christ, and to discover, in our daily lives, the difference that a relationship with heaven makes to the way we live.

If you are a visitor to Stafford or this is the first time you have worshipped here, please make yourself known to those leading the service and join us for refreshments after the 9.45, 10.30 or 6.00 services.

#### Collect for Today

**L**ord, you have taught us that whatever we do without love is worth nothing: send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the true bond of peace and all virtues; for without love whoever lives is reckoned dead by you.

Grant this for the sake of your only Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



*So then,  
men ought  
to regard us as  
Servants of Christ  
and as those  
entrusted with the secret  
things of God.*

*1 Corinthians 4:1*



We are a FAIRTRADE Church. We have pledged to use Fairtrade Goods wherever possible.

# THE CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL

If you wish to be included on the new list or your details have changed in any way since last year, please fill in an Application Form (available at each service) and post it in the Church Hall letter box. Please ensure that forms are returned to the office by 4th March for inclusion in this year's Electoral Roll. The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) will be held on Sunday 22nd April in Castle Church Hall.



**Service of Holy Communion in Castle Church**  
**10.00am this Wednesday**  
**14th February**

There will not be a Communion Service on Tuesday this week.



## Lent Course

# The Greatest Song

This year's Lent Course will be an introduction to 'Song of Songs'

Ros Clarke will be leading us through this unique book, showing us how it invites us to enjoy greater intimacy with God, as well as teaching us about marriage and sexuality.

All are welcome - no prior knowledge needed!

Starting on Wednesday 21st February and running for six weeks, each week's session will be given twice, at 2pm and 8pm in the Barn.



### KID'S GROUP

Wednesday 5 to 6pm for all aged 7 to 11.

This Week - Heroes of Faith - Rahab



### PARENT & TODDLER GROUP

Meeting every Friday during term-time from 9.15 to 11.15am in Castle Church Hall.



### YOUTH GROUP

Friday 7.30 to 9pm for all aged 11 to 16.

This Week's Activity - Team Games  
 Talk Outline - "Sermon on the Mount: Decide"

No Youth Group during half-term, but back on Friday 2nd March.



### PRAYER DIARY

Pick up a Prayer Diary from Church today. It contains something to pray about each day.

## Late Summer Midweek Break at Shallowford House

Tuesday to Thursday

11th - 13th September 2018

This is our 7th Midweek Break and it is still as popular as ever! Shallowford House is a lovely place to relax and have a few days away with other members of the Church Family. All the rooms are en-suite and the break will be 'full board'.

We are delighted that the guest speaker will be our former curate Phil Mullins and he will be with us throughout our time away. Phil is currently Associate Minister of St James Church in Muswell Hill, North London.

If you are unsure about going then ask someone who has been before - do not miss out on what most have described as a really precious time together

The cost is £110 but if you cannot afford it then Castle Church Growth Trust has generously offered to help out if you can make a contribution.

Pick up a leaflet from Church today and have a word with Philip or Dalena.

### BARNABAS FUND PRAYER

We praise and thank You, Lord Jesus, for continued growth of the Church in Turkey, as Turkish Muslims from all walks of life turn to You. Guide and inspire by Your Holy Spirit the believers who are now writing worship songs in Turkish, and the rising new generation of leaders.

Bless the young married couples and protect their children, growing up in Turkey with the word "Christian" on their identity cards. We ask that You will continue to build Your Church in the country where the seven churches You wrote to through the Apostle John were located.

May Your people there today never forget their first love for You, never follow false teaching and never become lukewarm in their faith. Amen.



### YOUR PRAYERS

Please remember in your prayers those who are unwell, and pray that they may be reassured by the Lord's presence in their lives -

John Weaver, Beryl Martin, Jean Willars, John Kirkham, Lilian Kelsall, Andrea McEleny, Scott & Alisdair White, Betty Neal.

Please also pray for Ken Laird (who we often see at the 6.00pm Service and at Shallowford Breaks) and his son Malcolm as they grieve for the recent loss of Malcolm's wife aged 51.

