

Stoke St Gregory Baptist Church
September 2021
News



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From Sonya

Does your heart go out when you hear the bad news stories of what is happening in our world at the moment? Do you ever look at all the need in the world and wonder what you could do that will make any difference? You may not be able to fix everything, but you can do something. And sometimes small things can make a really big difference to someone. Listen to this story:



“Shortly before one Christmas in Moldova, Anastacia wrote in her diary that she would love a pink piggy with glittery eyes, but her mother was not able to afford such a toy. Some weeks later Anastacia and her siblings were invited to a Christmas party at a local church where they each received a shoebox gift. When Anastacia opened her shoebox, she could not believe her eyes. A pink pig with glittery eyes was looking back at her. She started to cry with joy! Her mother thanked the Operation Christmas Child team for the beautiful gifts her children received and said, “Truly God knows what we need and what we want, today’s shoeboxes are proof.”

Imagine what it must be like not to be able to give your children one toy that they would like! How encouraging that God knows and cares about one little girl and makes sure that a family knows and experiences His love and care.

If you would like to send a shoebox to a child this year, there are a number of ways that you can do it. You can send a shoebox online by going to shoebonline.org.uk and clicking ‘Pack your shoebox.’ This costs £20. Or you can choose items and pack a physical shoebox. For this, you will need to collect a leaflet from the church with the details. You could also get together with someone else and pack a shoebox together. Who knows how God might use you if you pack a shoebox this year!



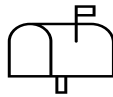
Blessings to you all, Sonya

From the Deacons

Although the deacons haven't officially met together since their last meeting at the end of July, there have been considerable exchanges of correspondence relating to the dry rot in the school room and ongoing concerns about the old stable block in the church grounds.

If you have been into the school room recently, you may have noticed that some of the floorboards have been pulled up and that the area near the kitchen has been cordoned off. The situation now seems to be on its way to being resolved and hopefully the school room will be back to normal again soon.

The old stable block has become more unstable recently and has been deemed unsafe to enter. The garden equipment that is usually housed there has had to be relocated elsewhere until an alternative storage facility can be arranged within the church grounds. Because the stable block is Listed – as is the church building – the deacons are having to explore many complex options for the future of the outside structure and are grateful for the advice given by those who are experienced and knowledgeable in such matters. We remain optimistic that a good solution will be found and seek God's guidance in our decision making.



Newsletter distribution

We have been very fortunate to have willing volunteers to help deliver the newsletter. Thank you Veronica Andrews and Sue Hembrow, for your help over the years.

We would be very grateful to have two new volunteers to deliver in Woodhill and Huntham Close/Church Close. If you are able to give up half an hour of your time each month, we'd be glad to hear from you. Alison and Liz.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all Your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight. *Proverbs 3:5-6*

We are starting to be able to get together again...



Luncheon Club

Restarted once Covid restrictions were lifted, and it has been a pleasure to see friends enjoying good food and each other's company.

We started with just 12 lunchers so there was more space, and we adapted the way we serve the food to the new conditions.

We have space for a few more people to join us, every other Wednesday 12 – 2.00pm. We do ask people to book in advance so we know how many to cater for.

A two course meal costs £4.00. Please contact Alison 490380 or Liz 490828 if you are interested.

Luncheon club dates in September: Wednesday 8th and 22nd.

Church BBQ

We were certainly blessed with the weather when many of us met in the church grounds to share fellowship and to enjoy the wonderful barbequed food kindly prepared by Ian and Tony. As usual, the food provided was abundant and delicious and it was such a lovely opportunity to meet up again.



Junior Church

With the start of a new school year, we're looking forward to seeing our young people again and are ready to welcome them back with a couple of events that are taking place in September. We'd also love to welcome anyone wanting to try Junior Church for the first time...!

Special Harvest Service & Walk

Sunday, 26th September

Junior Church

Relaunch

10.30 am Harvest Scavenger Hunt

3.00 pm Family Walk (finishing with a
tea)

Stoke St Gregory

Baptist Church

All very welcome to these
events

Messy Church Event

On Saturday 4th September, Stoke St Gregory Baptist Church is holding an outdoor Messy Church Event for families in our grounds. It starts at 4pm with *crafts* and a *trail* and concludes with eating a *picnic tea* together about 5pm. Please invite families you know and email Sonya with the numbers of adults and children attending so that we can make sure we have enough food!



TWIGs – Toddlers with God



TWIGs will restart on Thursday 9th September 9.30am to 11.30am in the church building. All are welcome to come and share time together with the children and activities.

TWIGs is the parents, carers and toddlers group run by the Baptist Church and normally runs every Thursday during term time. It serves Stoke St Gregory and the surrounding villages offering parents, carers, and the children a chance to meet others, to visit, chat, share, and gives the children time with other children in a safe environment.

My favourite Saint

I should confess that before starting this page about saints, I was unaware that Baptists don't focus much on them! Baptist scholars read and appreciate the church fathers and other historically significant contributors, however they recognise only the bible as their source of theological authority and consider all born again people to be saints. Many Baptists agree however, that we can always learn and be inspired about the lives of many of the saints.



This month, I have Paddy to thank for suggesting St Francis of Assisi. For me, Paddy, flowers and nature are intertwined so I thought it very apt that she had chosen St Francis.

St Francis was born in Italy in 1182. He was the son of a wealthy cloth merchant and grew up leading a life of privilege.

St Francis renounced worldly goods and family ties to embrace a life of poverty. He believed he was called to make repairs to church buildings after hearing a voice command him, and he restored several ruined chapels. Inspired by hearing the Gospel of St Matthew about the “Commissioning of the Twelve”, Francis donned a coarse woollen tunic with a knotted rope tied around and went about the Umbrian countryside preaching the message of penance, brotherly love and peace. He founded the Franciscan Order and later founded the Poor Clares – a contemplative order of nuns. In 2013 Pope Francis chose to honour St Francis by taking his name.

St Francis considered all nature as the mirror of God and is best known for being the Patron Saint of animals and the environment. His Feast Day is October 4th, and many churches have a ceremony for people to bring their pets and working animals to church. It is thought that St Francis held the first “live nativity” held in a stable with real animals.

(Should you have a saint you have a particular affinity with please let me know and I can share it in the next newsletter!)

For our Prayers

Mary Cooper
Ruth and Steve Loveridge
Dianne Sheppard
Joan Thatcher
Gill and Anthony Yaskin
Luncheon Club



We continue to hold in our prayers others who are known to us at this time in our community – David Hincks, Valerie and Graham.

The funeral of John Scott will take place at 12noon on Friday, 17th September at Stoke St Gregory Baptist Church. We pray for for Paddy and the family as they grieve for John.

BMS World Mission report that they have evacuated all BMS workers in Afghanistan from the country, following the withdrawal of US and other foreign troops in June and July, and the subsequent control of power by the Taliban. BMS are actively exploring how they can respond and meet the needs of people in Afghanistan.

BMS World Mission has worked in Afghanistan since 1997, partnering with organisations that serve the people of Afghanistan through training and capacity strengthening. Areas of work include community development, mental health support, agricultural training and palliative care.

(Information taken from BMS World Mission Website)

We offer our prayers to all refugees and those supporting them, especially remembering the people of Afghanistan and Syria



BMS Birthday Scheme

We celebrate the birthday this month of Liz Hembrow on the 23rd

We wish her a very happy day and thank her for supporting the scheme.

September Calendar

Sat 4th	4.00pm	Messy Church Outdoor Event	Church grounds
Sun 5th	10.30am	Morning Service with Communion – Fruitfulness on the Frontline 1	Inside
Wed 8th	12 noon	Lunch Club	School Room
Thurs 9th	9.30am to 11.30am	TWIGS	Inside
Sun 12th	10.30am	Morning Service with Tim Spotswood.	Outside
Thurs 16th	9.30am to 11.30am	TWIGS	Inside
Sun 19th	10.30am	Morning Service – Fruitfulness on the Frontline 2	Inside
Mon 20th	7.30pm	Deacons Meeting	
Wed 22nd	12 noon	Lunch Club	School Room
Thurs 23rd	9.30am to 11.30am	TWIGS	Inside
Sun 26th	10.30am	Harvest Service with BMS Harvest appeal	Inside

Sun 26th	10.30am	Junior Church Scavenger Hunt	Church grounds/Inside
Sun 26th	3.00pm	Junior Church Big Walk with tea afterwards	Start outside the chapel
Thurs 30th	9.30am to 11.30am	TWIGS	Inside

Isn't it good to see such a full calendar once again!

September Flowers

5th Freda Gadsby
 12th Julia Spotswood
 19th Lesley Perry
 26th Harvest Flowers



October

3rd Harvest Flowers

It is lovely once again to be able to bring flowers as part of our worship together on a Sunday morning. Your gift of flowers is also appreciated by those in our community who receive them after the service with our love.