

Stoke St Gregory Baptist Church

December 2021

News



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From Sonya

How are you feeling as we approach Christmas? Looking forward to making up for what we missed out on last year? Nervous about circulating viruses? Wondering how you will be able to do everything / afford everything this year?

Advent is a time when we celebrate God coming into our world and setting in motion the process of putting the world to rights. We can have hope because Jesus came as Emmanuel, God with us, and showed us how loving, compassionate, and forgiving our God really is. We can have hope this year, because God wants to have a loving relationship with each one of us and is waiting for us to accept His invitation to spend time with Him. We can even have hope as we look around at all the problems and difficulties in our world. This is because at Advent, not only do we look back at the coming of Jesus as a human being into this world, we also look forward to the day when Jesus will return to this earth as king and renew the heavens and the earth. We look forward to the day when there will be no more war or suffering or death or crying or pain.

As we approach Christmas this year, let's remember what we have been reminded of during lockdown, that the most important thing is spending time with loved ones, not how much money we have to spend on presents. And let's look forward in anticipation of meeting with our God through Jesus by the power of the Holy Spirit in a new and fresh way this Christmas. O come, O come Emmanuel!

May you know God's peace and joy this Christmas!

Blessings, Sonya

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

From the Deacons

The deacons met at Sonya and Ian's home on 15th November, and in spite of all our concerns we were able to have a laugh and had good fellowship. Sonya started the meeting with prayers and a devotion, suggesting we reflect on how to discern God's will. This gave us all a lot to think about and to challenge us. We then prayed for those we know of needing God's special care at this time (*please do let a deacon know if there is someone or a situation you want prayed for so we can put them on our list*)

The main item on our agenda then was to discuss the budget for next year (this had been prepared for us by Liz to whom we owe tremendous thanks) and the stableblock. We also reviewed past services and made a note of future events. The meeting finished at 9:30pm with the Grace.



Community Christmas Food/Toy Bank in Stoke St Gregory:

As this festive season approaches with all of its trappings of food and gifts it is well worth reflecting on those in distressed circumstances who do not have the resources to participate in the festive cheer. At the initiative of Anne Merritt, the suggestion is that we set up a community food and toy bank, which will be overseen by the SSG Parish Council, such that those who are less fortunate and in particular children can benefit from the generosity of fellow members of the community. Donations can be left at the **Shop or the Pub** at any time where they will be stored prior to distribution during the week before Christmas. Toys and games of all descriptions would be particularly appreciated, provided they are new or in very good condition. If you wish to donate fresh produce to be delivered before Christmas this can be ordered through the shop. In anticipation of a positive response the Parish Council would like to thank all who are able to contribute.



Stoke St Gregory Baptist Church is hosting their Christmas Messy Church on **Sunday 5th December** starting with breakfast at 10am. Families are invited to come and enjoy making Christmas crafts and celebrating Christmas with story and song.

Advent Study - A poem, a prayer a picture and a hymn



Back during lockdown when we couldn't meet for home groups, we set up a telephone discussion group. A rota was set up and each week we phoned or received a call from one other person to discuss a picture or a

passage that we had been looking at during the week.

Although lockdown has ended, it is still difficult for some people to travel to meet in a group so we thought we would meet again by phone, just for advent.

I have chosen a poem, a prayer, a picture and a hymn, one for the remaining four weeks of advent, starting on Monday 29th November. If you would like to take part in this, please let me know and I will include you in the rota. We found it was an enjoyable way to keep in touch – I hope you will enjoy it too.

Liz 490828



The Angel in Bow Street, Langport TA10 9PR

The Candlelight Café - *“A cosy, comfortable place of welcome and companionship for anyone who is bereaved, no matter how recently or how long ago...it’s for anyone who could do with a safe space to talk, or just sit and be, laugh, cry and take a moment to light a candle in remembrance...and enjoy coffee (or tea or hot chocolate) and some of our heavenly home-made cake...”*

EVERY FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH 10am – 12.00 midday
December 2nd January 6th February 3rd March 3rd April 7th

For more information or to speak to someone between the monthly cafes, please telephone Jess on 01458 251881, Sheila on 01458 252112 or Ruth on 01458 253760. Due to the current need for social distancing considerations in the café, numbers may have to be limited at times. It may therefore be advisable to phone first.

Did you know Somerset libraries offer a Home Library Service to individuals who cannot access the library due to ill health, mobility or caring reasons?

Our volunteers will choose and deliver books to you on a regular basis. If you or anyone you know might be interested in volunteering or receiving this service, please contact the Home Library Manager on Tel: 07814 079831 or email at KJenssen@somerset.gov.uk who will be happy to help you.



Those of us who attended the Big Quiz Night in the chapel in aid of TearFund's war on poverty thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. The evening was full of laughter and camaraderie, making us realise what we have been missing, and raised **£200** towards Tearfund's work. Before the questions were put to us we watched a video clip of the need of people in Burkina Faso, a poverty stricken country due to prolonged drought and poor harvests.

The Questions were very interesting and varied - sport, music, literature, geography, general knowledge - all of which made us think and gave us much to talk about.

Examples of the questions are (and no looking on your smart phones)

Q: Which country was the first to ban the use of coal to produce electricity?

Q: Of the Olympic rings, which colour is not included - orange, black, yellow, green, white?

At half time instead of oranges we were given splendid hot dogs kindly prepared by Ian. Thanks to Sonya for producing all the paperwork and signing us up for the quiz. We are looking forward to next year's quiz when hopefully we will manage to beat the Anglicans (they won again this year but only by one point!)

Thank you to Tim for writing this report – it sounds as if we all need to start revising on our general knowledge ready for next year's Big Quiz Night!

For our Prayers

Graham and Valerie Board
Amanda and Stuart Saunders, Georgie and
Luke, Amelia, Freddie and Olivia
Kathleen Staple
Alison White
Kathy and Mike Davidson

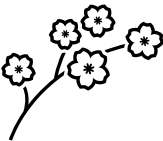


We continue to hold in our prayers others known and unknown to us at this time in our community, especially Judith and David Hincks, Mary Strange, Anne Jackson, Freda Gadsby, Paddy and Family, Jean Pimm, The Marriott family.

Some joyful news to share...

Mike & Kathy Davidson were delighted by the arrival of their fifth grandchild, Arabella Grace Davidson, on October 22nd, a third daughter for Andy & Charlotte & sister to Olivia & Cressie. She was born at home, weighing 9lbs 1oz, & all went very well.

December Flowers



5th	Mary Strange
12th	Kathy Davidson
19th	CHRISTMAS FLOWERS
25th	CHRISTMAS FLOWERS
Jan 2nd	Alison White

December 2021 Calendar

Day	Time	Event
Wed 1st	12 noon	Luncheon Club in the schoolroom
	7.30pm	Home Group
Thurs 2nd	9.30am– 11.30am	TWiGs in the schoolroom
Sun 5th	10.30am	Advent 2: MESSY CHURCH Luke 1:26-38
Wed 8th	7.30pm	Home Group
Thurs 9th	9.30am- 11.30am	TWiGs in the schoolroom
Fri 10th	6pm	Willowset Nativity in the Chapel
Sun 12th	10.30am	Advent 3: COMMUNION SERVICE Luke 1:39-56
Mon 13th	10am - 1pm	Open Church
Wed 15th	12 noon	Luncheon Club Christmas Lunch in the schoolroom
	7.30pm	Home Group
Thur 16th	9.30am- 11.30am	TWiGs in the schoolroom
Sun 19th	10.30am	Advent 4: JUNIOR CHURCH SERVICE
	6.30pm	Traditional Carols by Candlelight
Tue 21st	6pm	Carols in The Square with St Gregory's Church
Fri 24th	6pm	Christingle Service
Sat 25th	10am	CHRISTMAS DAY Service
Sun 26th		NO SERVICE
Sun 2nd	10.30am	Covevant Service with Communion