

Stoke St Gregory Baptist Church

June 2022

News



Minister:

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From Sonya

As we watch the news at the moment there is so much bad news and life feels so uncertain. There are many questions about our leaders and whether they are leading us with integrity or not. The Bible has a lot to say about good and bad leadership. In 1 Corinthians 11, Paul encourages his readers, “Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.” Paul not only taught about Jesus, but He was also a good example of how to live out the teachings of Jesus.



As Christians we are called to live with integrity – to be those whose words match up with the way that they live. In Romans 12:2 Paul exhorts us, “Don’t become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You’ll be changed from the inside out.”

This month we celebrate Pentecost – the day when the Holy Spirit was poured out on the followers of Jesus in a new way. They were given power to speak out the message of Jesus and also to live it in practice. As we celebrate Pentecost this year, let’s ask the Holy Spirit to fall afresh on us so that we also can be those who live with integrity, those who speak out the message of hope which Jesus gives us, and to live as those who follow Jesus’ teachings. The only way we can do this is through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Come Holy Spirit. Change us from the inside out.
Blessings to you all,
Sonya

You crown the year with a bountiful harvest; even the hard pathways overflow with abundance. *Psalm 65:11 (NLT)*

From the Deacons

The deacons met last month with Sonya at Tim's house. We shared time praying for each other, focussing on concerns in our own lives. We then brought to each other's attention those in our community whom we are concerned about, and we lifted them too in prayer.

We discussed the items on our agenda, including the various maintenance issues facing the Manse and the church building. The increase in the cost of electricity was discussed since our current contract expires soon. Liz had been able to negotiate an acceptable new tariff and contract, which we agreed to accept. The deacons voiced their concerns about the growing gap between our increasing outgoings and diminishing income. We strongly agreed that any costs involved in the restoration of the stable block should not be covered from our savings, but from grants and pledges.

We looked forward to and discussed the services and activities due to take place in June and over the summer. We are looking forward to meeting again this month with the newly elected team of deacons. The meeting finished by sharing the Grace together.

New Deacon Team for 2022/3

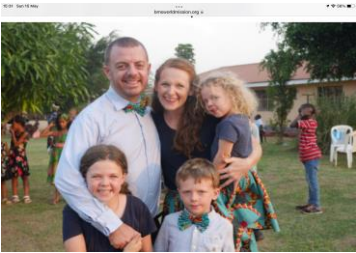
Following the election held at the AGM, the membership voted for the following deacons: Stuart Mark and Jamie Marriott – both of whom agreed to serve for another term. Amanda Saunders continues with her term of service, and Lesley Perry is very much welcomed as a new deacon on the team.

Huge thanks must go to Tim Spotswood for his dedication in serving both as a deacon and as Secretary. He has worked tirelessly over the years and has probably been relied on a little too much in carrying out the many tasks he has taken on! On a personal level, I shall really miss

Tim's kindness, and his willingness to help guide, advise and support whilst I had my "L Plates" on as a newly elected deacon.

We have still not been able to find someone to take up the role of Treasurer and now that Tim has stepped down, the role of Secretary. We are very grateful to Liz who continues to oversee the church's finances and to others in the membership who help in so many ways.

Visit from our BMS Missionary Link



One of our missionary links, Joe Ovenden, visited the church on Sunday 15th May to share with us some of the many projects Lois and he have been involved in during their eight years in Uganda. Our singing was led by the choir and musicians of the University Community Church, the church Joe and family attended when in Gulu. What joy and energy this choir put into the worship songs, a lesson for us all!

At Gulu Lois started a speech therapy service aimed at helping Down's syndrome children and their parents. In Uganda there is no support for disabled children, so this service is very much needed. Isaac, a local Ugandan, now runs this service so it is in safe hands. With the help of another BMS family in Uganda she started a Home-school Group, "Gulu Globetrotters", which has grown enormously and has gone from strength to strength with over 60 children of all nationalities enjoying a

good education. This was vitally important during lockdown when government Ugandan schools were closed for two years. (No internet schooling there!)

Joe was involved in many projects, some of which are - agroforestry (there is a shortage of timber in the area due to forest destruction in the lengthy civil war and the overuse of timber for cooking and hot water), crop based training programmes aiming to educate people on how to generate a family income, registering an agriculture wholesale business with the aim of creating a profit margin which can be used to train more farming communities, budgeting and planning for the way forward, liaising with other BMS workers and NGO's.

The Ovenden's remit was to develop a team of local people to help local people with their farming, schooling, the law, speech therapy etc and in this they have succeeded. Isaac runs the speech therapy programme, Genesis the agriculture and agroforestry projects, Benon oversees different areas such as governance, accounts and general operations, Val works in Child Protection, etc. A job well done Joe, Lois and their cubs.

It was wonderful to hear how our missionary links have worked so hard doing God's work in Uganda, to learn of friendships, partnerships, and love. Well done Lois, Joe and their cubs, we wish you well for your futures back in the UK and all God's blessing.

A vote was taken at the church meeting, to continue supporting the BMS work of Benon and Genesis in Gulu, alongside that of Tim and Melanie Spears in Chad.



Fundraising for Arc (formally Taunton Association for the Homeless)

A small group of us will be spending the night of the 10th June in the chapel grounds as part of The Big Sleep Out being organised by Arc. We have our sleeping bags at the ready and a hot urn on standby! We are hoping to raise much needed

funds to help support those facing homelessness in and around Taunton and would be incredibly grateful for your sponsorship. You can make a donation online by sponsoring any member of the team via our Just Giving page:

www.justgiving.com/team/churchsleepoutSSG or you can donate using the sponsorship forms that are in the church schoolroom and the Village Shop. We very much appreciate anything that you are able to give – it really will help change the lives of those less fortunate than ourselves.



Jubilee Strawberry Tea

Please come and join us on **Saturday 4th June at 3pm** to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee with a delicious Strawberry Cream Tea. All are welcome and there will be the usual abundance of delicious home made cakes, scones and fresh strawberries & cream! We will have

some special books to give out, both for adults and children, which commemorate Her Majesty's 70 years of faithful service.

For our Prayers

Ali and Jason Pook, Freddie and Nelly
Geoff Treasure
Jain Fairfax
Leah and Simon Van Looy, Jack and Max
Mike Hutchings
Residents and staff of our care homes.



We continue to keep in our prayers Joan Thatcher, Mary Strange, Sonya Setchell, Anne Jackson, Stoke St Gregory Primary school and its staff. We also pray for Maryna and other Ukrainians who have recently moved to the area seeking refuge, and their hosts who have opened up their homes to them. We pray too for those in our community who still struggle with concerns about Covid and who lack the confidence to return to activities they previously enjoyed.

We give thanks for Her Majesty the Queen as she celebrates her Platinum Jubilee, for her selfless service over 70 years and for her Christian faith.

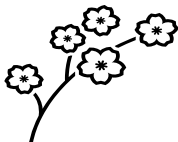
BMS Birthday Scheme



We celebrate the birthday this month of Gillian Akerman on 16th

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

June Flowers



12th Amanda Saunders **19th** Alison White
26th Joan Thatcher

July 3rd Gillian Akerman

June 2022 Calendar

Day	Time	Event
Weds 1st	12 noon	Luncheon Club in the Schoolroom
	7.30pm	Home Group
Sat 4th	3.00pm	Jubilee Strawberry Tea at the Baptist Chapel
Sun 5th	11.00am	SONGS OF PRAISE with St Gregory's on Playing Field, followed by VILLAGE JUBILEE PICNIC
Weds 8th	7.30pm	Home Group
Thurs 9th	9.30am-11.30am	TWiGs in the Schoolroom
Fri 10th	6.30pm	Big Sleep Out for Arc
Sun 12th	10.30am	MESSY CHURCH starting with breakfast at 10am
Tue 14th	2.00pm	Open the Book planning meeting
Weds 15th	12 noon	Luncheon Club in the Schoolroom
	7.30pm	Home Group
Thurs 16th	9.30am-11.30am	TWiGs in the Schoolroom
	7.30pm	Deacon's meeting at the Manse
Sun 19th	10.30am	FAMILY WORSHIP – Resurrection People 5: Raising Doubts
Weds 22nd	7.30pm	Home Group
Thurs 23rd	9.30am-11.30am	TWiGs in the Schoolroom
Sun 26th	10.30am	FAMILY WORSHIP - Resurrection People 6: Restoring Work
Weds 29th	12 noon	Luncheon Club in the Schoolroom
Thurs 30th	9.30am-11.30am	TWiGs in the Schoolroom