

# Stoke St Gregory Baptist Church

## March 2022

### News



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## From Sonya

This month we begin our journey through Lent. I wonder what Lent means to you? A time to give up something? A waiting time until you can eat chocolate eggs without guilt? Not much different from other times?



Traditionally with the church, Lent has been seen as a time of death and resurrection of Jesus at Easter.

From its start on Ash Wednesday until its conclusion on Easter Sunday, Lent has been a time for fasting or giving something up or abstinence. Just as we carefully prepare for events in our personal lives, like a wedding, or a birthday, Lent invites us to make our minds and hearts ready for remembering Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. It is a time for self-reflection to confess our failings and seek to live a more godly life based on the teachings of Jesus Christ.

I wonder what would help you to connect with God and go deeper with Him this Lent? One possibility is to read a Lent book which has a short reflection to read each day with a prompt for prayer. We have some Lent books available to borrow, so if you would like one, let Sonya know or pick one up on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> February

Another more creative way is to go on a "Wonder Walk" each week of Lent. We live in an area where there are so many lovely places to walk. The Scottish Bible Society have produced a walking route map with a big difference – it doesn't matter where you go! There is one for each week of Lent and one each for Good Friday and Easter Sunday. On each map you will find something to read from the Gospel of Mark, questions to think about, games to play, and ideas to pray about. You don't need to prepare anything in advance, so why not download a map from <https://scottish.bible/wonderwalks/> and head off for your weekly Wonder Walk!

Hope and pray that they help you to connect with God in a deeper way. Blessings to you all, Sonya

## From the Deacons

The deacons met at Tim and Julia's home the night before Storm Eunice. It was good to spend time together; to pray together; to consider those on our pastoral care list; to reflect on Joshua's leadership, how it was necessary and important to remind the travellers of God's love for them and that they in turn must keep His commandments and laws. The same goes for all of us today.

We discussed the issues of maintenance – progress in getting a company to come and quote for the stable's reparation work; loose slates on the chapel; the soakaway; the rot in the vestry cupboard; the need to improve accessibility to the Manse; churchyard hedges etc, etc.

At the beginning of April Sonya will no longer be a NAM (Newly Accredited Minister) and has signed up for Continuing Ministerial Development whose purpose is to sustain the wellbeing and capability of ministers to learn, be refreshed, meet each other, and have time for retreats.

In our review of the past month's activities, we discussed the pleasure everyone who attends Messy Church has. It gives everyone a time to chat, sing and pray together. Looking forward, we discussed Lent - a Lenten Meal of soup, homemade bread, and cheese on 19<sup>th</sup> March; Lenten Walks; Easter, and the new sermon series (Resurrection People); a Platinum Jubilee Tea and how to remind people of the Queen's tremendous faith.

The meeting concluded at 9.40pm with the Grace.

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



## World Day of Prayer

This year, The World Day of Prayer takes place on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March. There will be a Joint Stoke St Gregory and North Curry World Day of Prayer Service at Stoke St Gregory Baptist Chapel at **3pm on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March.**

The service is titled, “I know the plans I have for you” (Jeremiah 29:11) and the overarching theme of the service is ‘hope’. We are looking forward to worshipping and praying together in unity on this day, and to sharing refreshments together afterwards in the schoolroom. A link to more information about the World Day of Prayer can be found on the following website <https://www.wwdp.org.uk/>

*Front cover picture shows a mug incorporating the 2022 theme, made by Christian artist Hannah Dunnett.*



### Tim’s Reflections...

**The Most Reverend Desmond Tutu OMSG CH GCStJ**

At Messy Church on Sunday 13th February Sonya used the theme of the Mustard Seed growing into something big, big enough for the birds to use as roosts, and of course the analogy is that something small can eventually, with God’s care and guidance, grow into His Kingdom.

This made me think yet again of Desmond Tutu, his bravery, his forgiveness’s despite all he and his family suffered at the hands of the apartheid regime, and the reason he became a priest. The account of this is as follows: ‘His mother was sweeping the steps of her house in Soweto when a priest, possibly Trevor Huddleston, walked by and took off his hat to her and wished her “Good morning, Mrs Tutu”. Desmond was only young but thought there must be something in this Christian malarky because in those days a white person would not take their hat off to a black person, yet alone greet them civilly.’ So a small gesture of politeness set

Desmond Tutu on the way to working as a Christian against the apartheid regime, getting apartheid labelled a sin against humanity, becoming the first black person to be the bishop of Johannesburg, then the first African to be Archbishop of Cape Town, winning the Nobel Peace Prize, and ultimately chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Throughout all this he remained humble, full of humour, a wonderful teacher, writer, communicator, a devout Christian, never missing a day of prayer or an opportunity to celebrate communion with those with him at the time.

Some of his pithy sayings:

“Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.”

“If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor. If an elephant has its foot on the tail of a mouse, and you say that you are neutral, the mouse will not appreciate your neutrality.”

“We are made for goodness. We are made for love. We are made for friendliness. We are made for togetherness. We are made for all of the beautiful things that you and I know. We are made to tell the world that there are no outsiders. All are welcome: black, white, red, yellow, rich, poor, educated, not educated, male, female, gay, straight, all, all, all. We all belong to this family, this human family, God's family.”

“In the end what matters is not how good we are but how good God is. Not how much we love Him but how much He loves us. And God loves us whoever we are, whatever we've done or failed to do, whatever we believe or can't.”

*Photo: Archbishop Desmond Tutu at Emory University Atlanta, Georgia USA. Reuters*

## BMS Birthday Scheme



We celebrate the birthdays this month of  
Tim Spotswood on 4th  
Dianne Callaghan & Alison Katte on 17th

We thank each of them for supporting the scheme and wish them a very happy day.

## Ideas for Lent



Rev Simon Bale will be teaching this year's Lent course, and all are welcome to join him. Each Thursday during Lent, starting on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March:

**4pm to 5pm in North Curry Church and**

**7pm to 8pm in the church room at Stoke St Gregory**

The theme of the course is titled "The Relevance of the Gospels: where does the story of Christ lead us today?"

The 7pm sessions will end with a short time of worship using the service for Compline (Night Prayer).

Wonder  
Walks



Take time this Lent and Easter to go outside and spend time with God. One way to help you to go deeper with God this Lent could be to use the Scottish Bible Society's 'Wonder Walks.' There are 8 maps - one for each week of Lent, one for Good Friday and one for Easter Saturday. You choose where to walk and the maps give you some things to reflect on and some fun things to do as you walk (e.g. 'Have a drink of water/Jump in a puddle/Throw a stick or a stone into a river') The maps can be downloaded and printed using this link <https://scottish.bible/wonderwalks/>

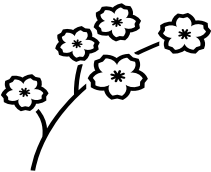
## For our Prayers

David and Judith Hincks  
Irene and Ron Browning  
Lys Kellett  
Mike and Kath Long, Rory, Toby and Harry  
Alison Mellors, Betsy and Emily  
Our schools, pupils, teachers and parents.



We continue to hold in our prayers Mary Strange, Anne Jackson, Freda Gadsby, Joan Thatcher, Betty Woodland, and Jean Pimm.

We offer our prayers at this time of grave uncertainty to the people of Ukraine, Russia, and the surrounding areas . Lord, give them hope and protection and a peaceful resolution to the current situation.



### March Flowers

**6th** Lesley Perry  
**13th** Freda Gadsby  
**20th** Jean Pimm  
**27th** Alison Katte

### April

**3rd** Ruth Gadsby

## March 2022 Calendar

Day	Time	Event
<b>Weds 2nd</b>	7.30pm	Home Group
<b>Thurs 3rd</b>	9.30am-11.30am	TWiGs in the Schoolroom
<b>Fri 4th</b>	3pm	Joint SSG and N Curry World Day of Prayer Service at SSG Baptist Chapel. Refreshments afterwards.
<b>Sun 6th</b>	10.30am	MORNING SERVICE with COMMUNION Old Testament characters who heard God 5: Samuel
<b>Tues 8th</b>	2pm	Open the Book planning meeting in the Schoolroom
<b>Weds 9th</b>	12 noon	Luncheon Club in the Schoolroom
	7.30pm	Home Group
<b>Thurs 10th</b>	9.30am-11.30am	TWiGs in the Schoolroom
<b>Sun 13th</b>	10.30am	CAFÉ CHURCH Fruits of the Spirit 5: Kindness
<b>Mon 14th</b>	7.30pm	Deacons Meeting
<b>Weds 16th</b>	7.30pm	Home Group
<b>Thurs 17th</b>	9.30am-11.30am	TWiGs in the Schoolroom
<b>Sat 19th</b>	12.30	Lenten Lunch – Soup, Bread & Cheese. Donations to ARC
<b>Sun 20th</b>	10.30am	FAMILY WORSHIP Old Testament characters who heard God 6: Habakkuk
<b>Weds 23rd</b>	12 noon	Luncheon Club in the Schoolroom
	7.30pm	Church Members Meeting
<b>Thurs 24th</b>	9.30am-11.30am	TWiGs in the Schoolroom
<b>Sun 27th</b>	10.30am	FAMILY WORSHIP (Mothering Sunday) Old Testament characters who heard God 7: Deborah
<b>Weds 30th</b>	7.30pm	Home Group
<b>Thurs 31st</b>	9.30am-11.30am	TWiGs in the Schoolroom