

Stoke St Gregory Baptist Church
August 2021
News



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From Sonya

Continuing from last month, here are some more things which may help you to recover from all that we have experienced over the last few months so that we are ready to move forward together with God into the future:



- **Being refreshed** – Many people are feeling exhausted after the last 18 months and we all need refreshment before we can move into all that God has for us. Take time to do things that you enjoy which are life-giving for you. I also encourage you to take time to be alone in God's presence and to ask Him to refresh You by His Holy Spirit. Take time to enjoy God's creation and experience God's peace.
- **Recovery** – God's road to recovery involves trusting and following Him. Jesus as our good shepherd knows the paths of this world that lead to healing and freedom, that take us to good pastures and still waters. As we look forward, not knowing how the future will unfold, each of us needs to choose who or what we will trust in. Jesus longs to carry our burdens as they are too heavy for us. Why not try imagining you are at the foot of the cross and physically mime placing your burdens at the feet of Jesus, trusting Him to carry them and to lead you into a good future.
- **Rejoice** – Now is a time to get together (safely). In this season we need to prioritise community, to catch up with each other, to build relationships again with those in our church family who we haven't seen for a while and those in our communities and wider families. We've all missed being in community. Take time to share God's love with others.

I pray that as you do these things that God will refresh, renew and restore you all, so that you are able to move forward with God.

Blessings to you all,
Sonya

From the Deacons

The deacons met at the Manse and were fortified by Ian's delicious iced coffee and scones. Top on the list is always to pray for those we know of who are in need of God's special help and to reflect on what God is calling us to do and be. We then considered the way forward now that lockdown has eased, we all agree we must proceed responsibly with care and consideration, and drew up some ideas to be put to the church meeting.

We discussed forthcoming attractions – Church BBQ 14th August; stall at the opening of the pavillion 21st August; shoeboxes (yes, it is nearly that time again!) and school involvement; Harvest 26th September; Tear Fund Big Quiz November 20th (a great success last time we held it); how to support those families in need over the school holidays; and of course finance and maintenance.

Over the last few meetings we have been considering the Vision for the church, a draft is to be presented to the church meeting on 26th July.

It was a very happy meeting under a gazebo in Sonya and Ian's garden. We felt all the better for meeting and praying together.

Tim

Flower Rota

Now that we are starting to have more services inside the chapel, we will need to set up a new flower rota. Gillian has very kindly put together the rota in the past but would like to pass this role onto someone else now. For now, flowers will only be done when there is a service inside the church building, and we will put together an informal rota to cover the months until the end of the year. In the meantime we will be putting together a list of those who would still like to be included on a flower rota, and will start a full rota again from January 2022.



If you think you might like to be included on the flower rota or would like to know more about what is involved, please talk to or email Amanda Saunders or Anne Coate.

Summer has arrived...!



YOU ARE ALL INVITED TO STOKE ST GREGORY
BAPTIST CHURCH'S BBQ

ON SATURDAY AUGUST 14TH

AT THE CHAPEL

STARTING 5:30 - 6PM (feasting starts at 6pm)
Bring your own drink & something to sit on!

PLEASE RSVP TO TIM

spotswoodtim@gmail.com or 01823490142 by Tuesday
10th August so that we know how many to cater for.

My favourite Saint

I have always had a bit of an affinity with St Swithun. Born c.800 AD he was the Anglo-Saxon Bishop of Winchester and subsequently became patron saint of the cathedral there. I attended St Swithun's School for Girls and was confirmed in Winchester Cathedral. My father was born on St Swithun's Day (15th July) and every year we would hope that the day would be blessed with sunshine rather than rain, to avoid a prolonged period of wet weather during the long summer holidays! The emblems for St Swithun are apples and raindrops.



There are various theories as to where the legend of the 40 days of rain might have originated. St Swithun was initially buried outside rather than inside his cathedral – in line with his wishes. When, many years later, his body was moved on 15th July into a new inside shrine, legend has it that St Swithun marked his displeasure with a terrible storm which lasted 40 days and nights. Another theory is that there was a tremendous downpour of rain on St Swithun's Day in 1315. Neither theory is thought to be very likely!

St Swithun was known for his piety and his zeal in building new churches or restoring old ones. He would invite the poor and not the rich to banquets and made his diocesan journeys on foot. He was linked to miracles both during and after his life. The most famous of these miracles was when he took pity on a poor woman who was jostled when crossing a bridge and dropped her basket of eggs. The saint made her broken eggs whole again. *Amanda*

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

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*



As Covid restrictions begin to be eased across our nation, we are aware that there are mixed feelings about this. The deacons were unanimous in deciding that we should proceed with care and responsibility when holding services and events and as agreed at the last church meeting, we will

continue with the following safety measures:

- * Hand gel will be available at the entrances and we would encourage those entering the chapel to wear a mask (unless exempt) and to keep a mask on until seated. We would request that masks are put back on if you are joining in with any singing. We need to be mindful and sensitive to those who cannot wear masks for physical or medical reasons.
- * We will continue to keep a record of all attendees for Track & Trace.
- * We will continue to keep the chapel well ventilated by keeping doors open, so you may wish to bring a blanket or wear warmer clothes once the weather starts to turn colder.
- * We will continue to place the chairs in a way that enables social distancing during services.
- * We will try to alternate services between outside and inside, weather permitting.
- * Coffee after the service will be served inside the school room but we will encourage people to sit at tables.
- * We will continue to take appropriate precautions when serving Communion.

We hope that these measures will reassure those wanting to attend services and events at the chapel but who may not have felt confident to. By listening to and caring for each other's needs and concerns, we hope that all will feel welcome and confident to come to the chapel to worship together again. All safety measures will be under constant review to reflect any new guidance. Please speak to Sonya or any of the deacons if you have any concerns or questions about returning to services.

For our Prayers

Maurice David
Liz and Robert Hembrow
Alison Katte
Pamela Merritt
Julia and Tim Spotswood
All school staff, pupils, parents and
grandparents



We are grateful to God for encouraging news...

That Shirley Worgan's great-grandson, Greyson, is doing well after his recent surgery. Shirley has passed on this lovely message from her granddaughter Stacey and partner Dan: "thanking everyone for their thoughts and prayers. Greyson is doing well and has moved from ICU to High Dependency now. He has to be on a fat free diet for about 6 weeks then hopefully things can return to normal." We continue to hold Greyson and his family in our prayers.

That Nicole continues to recover from her injuries and considering the extent of them, is making good progress physically. Nicole is finding it challenging to cope with the pace of her recovery and loss of independence so we continue to pray for her.

We also hold in our prayers others who are known to us at this time in our community – David & Gillian Akerman, Anne Jackson, David Hincks, Valerie and Graham.



BMS Birthday Scheme

We celebrate two birthdays this month –
Kathleen Staple on the 23rd
and Chris Coate on the 26th

We wish them both a very happy day and we
thank them for supporting the scheme.

August Calendar

1st	10.30am	Morning Service & Communion with Rev. Dave West	Outside chapel
8th	10.30am	Café Church. Fruit of the Spirit 3: Peace	Outside
14th	5.30pm	Church BBQ	Church grounds
15th	10.30am	Morning Service Luke 4: 14-30	Inside
22nd	10.30am	Morning Service Luke 4: 31-44	Outside
29th	10.30am	Morning Service with Ian Setchell Luke 5: 1-11	Inside
4th Sept	4.00pm	Messy Church Outdoor Event	Church grounds

A prayer for the Summer

May you walk with God this summer in whatever you do and wherever you go. May you talk to God this summer and every day and in every situation.

Amen

